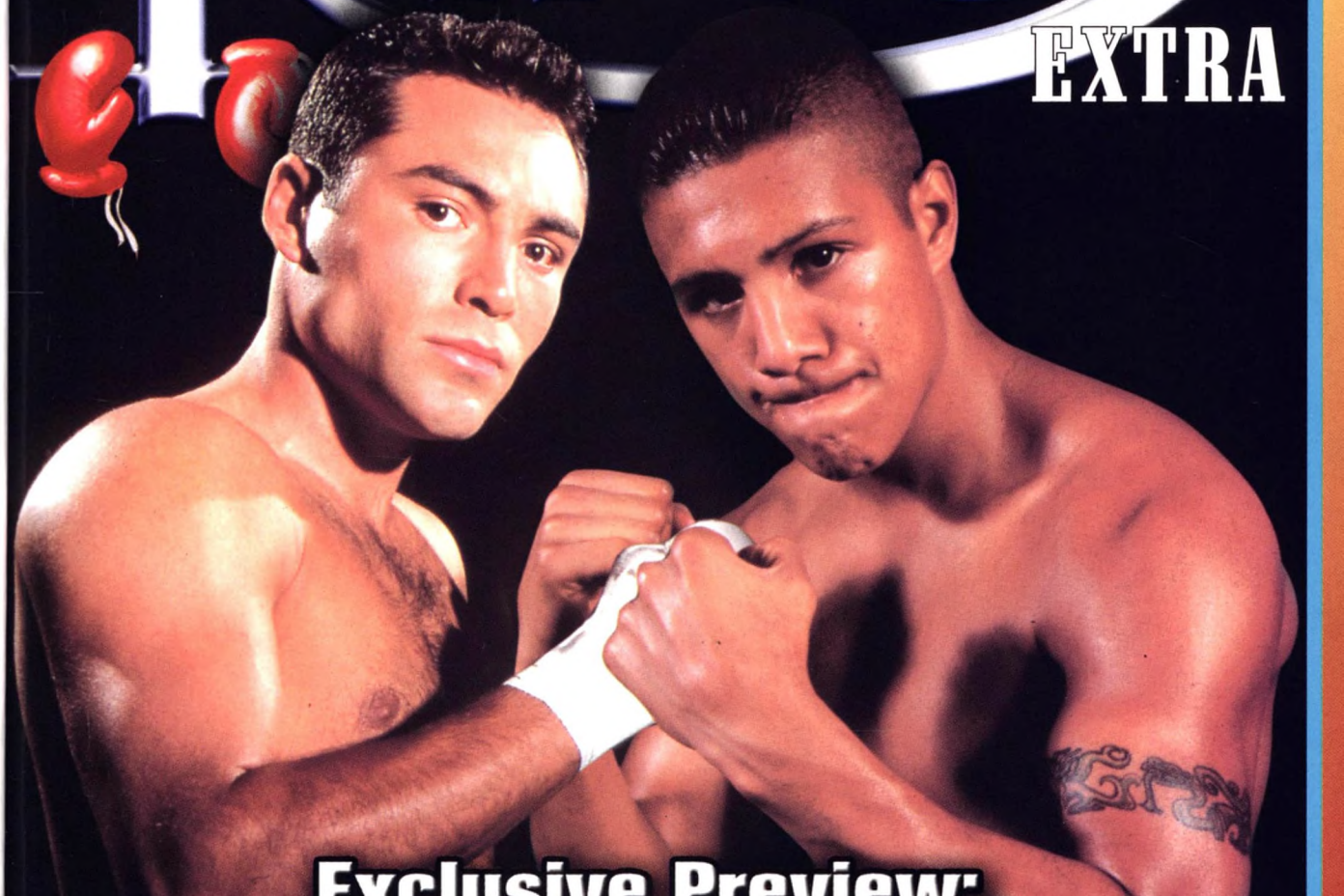
ANNUAL REPORT: THE STATE OF THE GAME

"The Bible Of Boxing"®

July 2002

The RING®

EXTRA



Exclusive Preview:

THE OSCAR-FERNANDO HATEFEST

HOPKINS: ECLIPSES MONZON

BOJADO: TEEN STAR UPSET

TYSON: NO DAHMER

5.95 U.S. $8.95 CANADA £3.95 U.K.

07

The HEART & SOUL *of* BOXING

HBO®

www.hbo.com/boxing ©1999 Home Box Office, a Division of Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P. All rights reserved. ® Service mark of Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P.

www.everlast.com

BOXING EQUIPMENT
EVERLAST
EST.1910
BRONX, NEW YORK

The RING

EXTRA

CONTENTS

July 2002

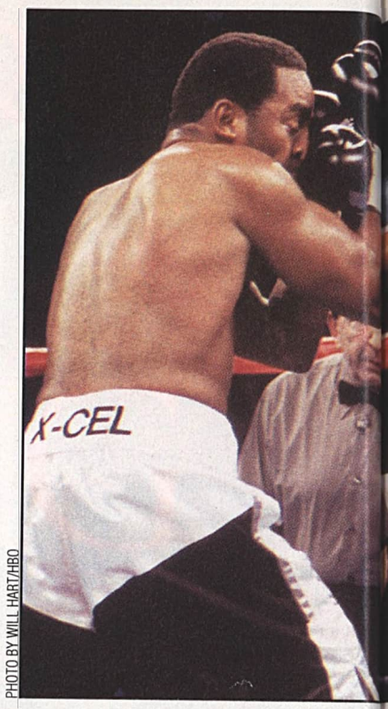
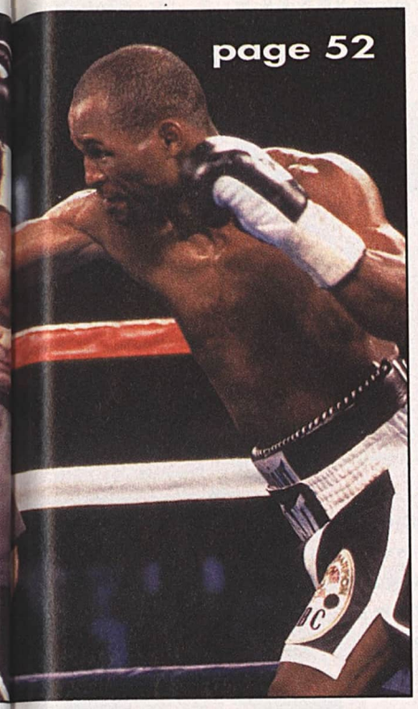
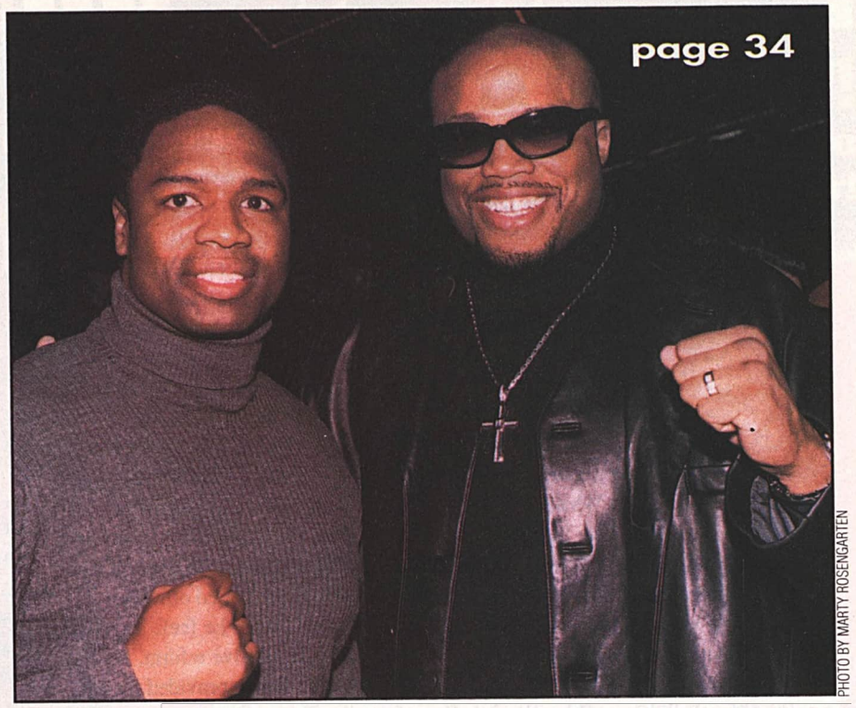


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

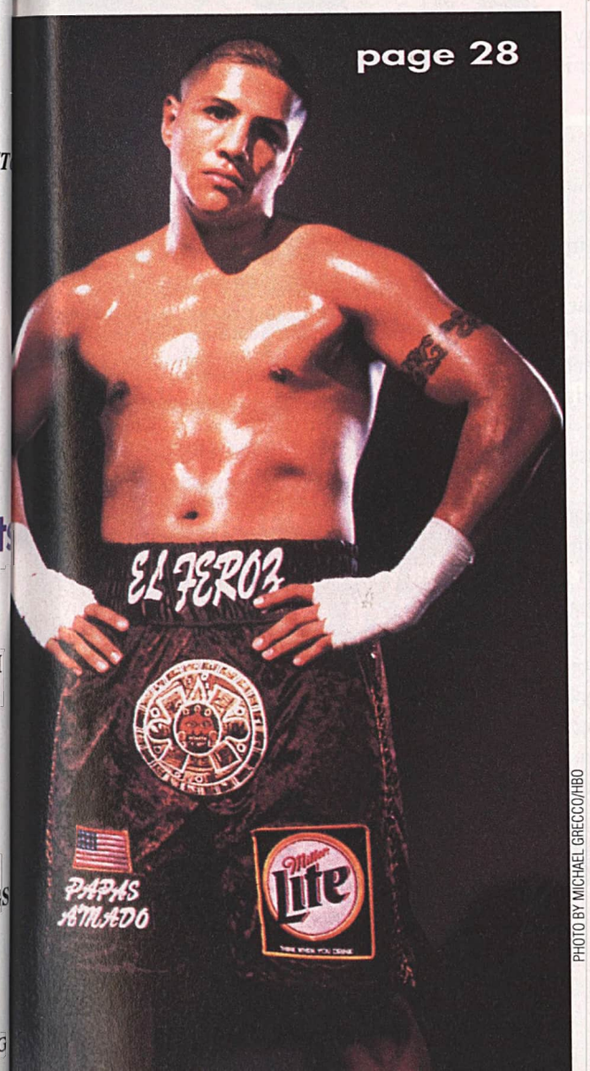


page 52



page 34

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN



page 28

PHOTO BY MICHAEL GRECCO/HBO

FEATURES

28 **OSCAR & FERNANDO'S "LOVE"-HATE RELATIONSHIP**
All Emotions Will Be Put In Motion On May 4!
By Ivan Goldman

34 **THE STATE OF THE GAME**
Our Exclusive Annual Report
By William Dettloff

52 **HOPKINS TOPPLES MONZON ... WITHOUT LAYING A GLOVE ON HIM!**
"The Executioner" Becomes The All-Time Middleweight Defense King
By Nigel Collins

58 **THE UPSET EPIDEMIC!**
Which Superstar Is Next To Go?
By Eric Raskin

64 **BACK TO SCHOOL FOR BOJADO**
Will "Panchito" Learn From His Shocking Loss?
By Ted Bodenrader

70 **BUDDY McGIRT, BOXING'S HOTTEST NEW TRAINER**
"This Is What God Had In Mind For Me"
By Robert Cassidy

76 **THE RING UPDATE: LIONEL ROSE**
"He Would Give You The Shoes Off His Feet"
By Ted Lerner

Cover:
Oscar De La Hoya by Andy Bernstein/T
Fernando Vargas by Chris Farina

Cover Design:
Joseph Kalman

Ringside Report And Analyses

84 **FIGHTER OF THE MONTH & RINGSIDE REPORTS**

Ratings

13 **RATINGS ANALYSIS**

14 **THE RING'S INTERNATIONAL RATINGS**

94 **ALPHABET RATINGS**

DEPARTMENTS

6 RINGSIDE, *by Nigel Collins*

8 ROUND ONE

16 NEW FACES: Junior Welterweight Andre Eason, *by Joe Santoliquito*

18 RYAN OUT LOUD, *by Jeff Ryan*

20 DIGGING DEEP, *by Ivan Goldman*

22 BEING THERE: Champ's Gym, *by Joe Santoliquito*

24 CAMERA CLICKS

82 WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS

96 THE RING CLASSIC: TERRY NORRIS WHIPS SUGAR RAY LEONARD, *by Jeff Ryan*

102 THE A, B, C, AND DEAS OF BOXING, *by Tommy Deas*

104 COME OUT WRITING

106 LOOKING AHEAD, *by Eric Raskin*

RINGSIDE

There's nothing prosecutors love more than going after celebrity defendants, because if they get a conviction, it will do wonders for their career. And had there been even a slim chance of nailing Mike Tyson, the Clark County, Nevada, prosecutor's office would have gone for the jugular. But after 10 prosecutors reviewed the evidence against him in the two sexual assault cases, the unanimous decision was that there was "no possibility whatsoever" to successful prosecute Tyson.

Tyson has done a lot of stupid things in his life, and has always been his own worst enemy, but this time he was probably more victim than perpetrator. If I'm right, it won't have been the first time an extortionist has cried wolf after a failed shakedown.

Whatever the story, Tyson no longer has these particular allegations hanging over his head. But even though prosecutors in Clark County have backed off, the way so many politicians are using Tyson's licensing controversy to get their names in the news only confirms my worst suspicions about many of our elected officials.

Sen. John McCain has earned the right to speak out on what he feels are boxing ills. He's been a friend to the sport, and has championed legislative reform. But most of these jokers never gave boxing a second thought before Tyson provided them with a political football they could parlay into brownie points.

It's this kind of thing that gives me serious doubts about the advisability of a federal boxing commission. Trading in one set of self-serving hacks for another isn't going to solve anything.

And speaking of self-serving hacks …

***

I'm not surprised that judge Mark Gibbon granted a temporary restraining order against the Nevada State Athletic Commission, which was trying to stop fighters wearing advertising tattoos, such as the one Bernard Hopkins wore in his middleweight title bouts with Felix Trinidad and Carl Daniels.

Bones Adams sought the court order because he had contracted to wear an advertising tattoo in his rematch with Paula Ayala prior to the NSAC's February 13 decision to ban them. By the time you read this, the commission will have met to reconsider its ill-advised ban, and my guess is that it will have reversed the original decision rather than face lengthy and costly litigation.

The commission initially voted 5-0 to ban the advertising tattoos because they considered them "demeaning to the sport."

Now let me get this straight: It's fine for an advertiser to hang giant banners in the arena, paint its logo on the ring canvas, turnbuckle pads, and those annoying little triangular signs that frequently litter the ring apron. But when a fighter tries to make a few extra bucks by selling the space on his back, it's suddenly "demeaning." Sounds like a double standard to me.

If the NSAC wants to ban all signage advertising, fine. But why just pick on the fighters? Could it be because the company paying them to plug its product is an online casino that competes with the brick-and-mortar casinos that host most of the major fights?

And another thing: If the NSAC is really concerned with the sport being demeaned, it should clamp down on both those slick canvas logos and triangular apron ads. Hardly a card goes by without at least one fighter slipping on the logo or tripping over a sign. To my way of thinking, jeopardizing fighters' safety in order to squeeze every last dollar out of a promotion is far more demeaning than looking at a few smears of greasepaint on a fighter's back.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 81, No. 8 July 2002

The Ring

THE RING
"The Bible Of Boxing"

NATHANIEL S. FLEISCHER
1888-1972 Founder

STANLEY WESTON
Publisher

STUART M. SAKS
Assistant Vice President

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ..... Nigel Collins
MANAGING EDITOR ..... Eric Raskin
ASSOCIATE EDITOR ..... Joseph Santoliquito
SENIOR ART DIRECTOR ..... Walt Schmidt
ART DIRECTORS ..... Joseph Kalman
Greg Stevens
Natalie Burke
PRODUCTION MANAGER ..... Bethany Lawler
PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR ..... Cliff Campo
ASSISTANT EDITORS ..... Dave Lenker
Brandi Mankiewicz
SENIOR WRITER ..... William Dettloff

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
David Tyler

NATIONAL CIRCULATION MANAGERS
Robert Nucci
Rose Ann Adolfi
Dave Hagman

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Vincent Bellissima
(215) 643-6385

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Dianne Weber

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43306-8121
(815) 734-1212

The Ring (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 81, No. 8 (Extra, July 2002), is published monthly, with an additional issue in December, by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Periodicals postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: The Ring, P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121. Single copy price $5.95 ($8.95 in Canada, £3.95 in U.K.). Subscription price $59.64 in the U.S., $69.24 in Canada and remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage.

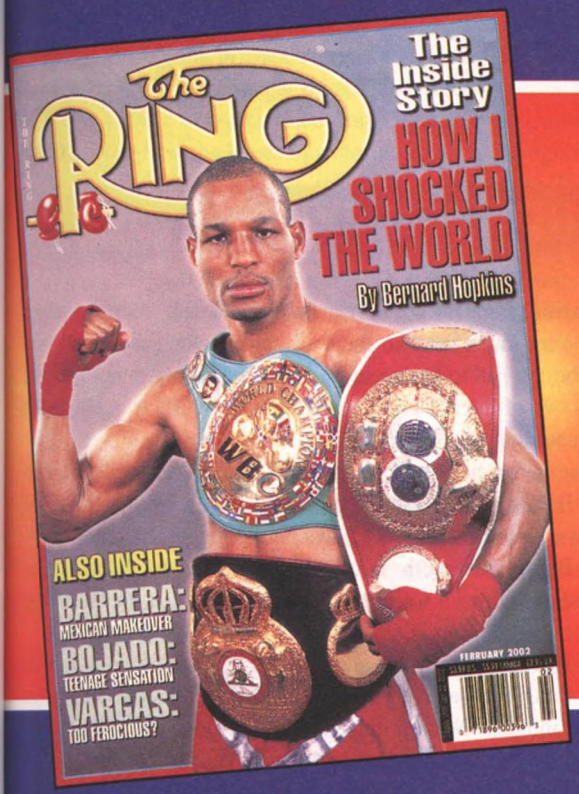
The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2002 London Publishing Co. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Inc., 641 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.

Printed in U.S.A.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE RING AND $19 IS YOURS TO KEEP!

That's just about what you'll save when you subscribe to THE RING for a year!



Each issue of THE RING contains the best in worldwide boxing coverage with the most dynamic ringside photography ... Columns by the most renowned boxing journalists ... The most respected ratings in the business ... A dip into our vast archives with The Ring Classic ... New Faces ... Camera Clicks.

THERE'S MORE!

Alternating with THE RING every other month is the 108-page RING EXTRA. It's THE RING—and then some!

SAVE ALMOST $19.00!

Now is the perfect time to take advantage of this tremendous offer. With our full-color format, THE RING continues to raise the standard for boxing magazines it first established in 1922!

Send To: **London Publishing Co.,** P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121

THREE WAYS TO SAVE!

Please Check Off The One You Wish To Order:

- ☐ THE RING (6 issues) for $19.00. That's a savings of nearly $5.00!
- ☐ THE RING EXTRA (6 issues) for $28.50. That's a savings of more than $7.00!

Save $19.00!

- ☐ All 12 issues of THE RING for $41.00.

Please indicate method of payment:

- ☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
- ☐ VISA # _____
- ☐ MasterCard # _____
  Expiration Date: ___/___ MO/YR

Signature: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

☐ New Subscription ☐ Renewal

FOR CANADA AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: $23.80 FOR THE RING ($34.00 AIRMAIL); $33.30 FOR THE RING EXTRA ($43.50 AIRMAIL); $50.60 FOR THE COMBINATION ($71.00 AIRMAIL). INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MAGAZINE. OFFER EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2003.

A0402R

5783/11-01/4c

ROUND ONE

SUPERFIGHT SHUFFLE

Postponements are a way of life in boxing. Fighters get hurt or sick, deals fall through, judges issue injunctions. You name it. We're pretty much used to the drill, and customarily expect the worst. Even so, late-January and early-February had to be one of the most frustrating times in recent memory for both fans and media alike, as two of the most anticipated fights of 2002 teetered on the brink for so long, you could pass out from holding your breath.

As soon as word leaked out that Robbie Peden had stove in Marco Antonio Barrera's ribs sparring, you figured the much-anticipated Barrera-Erik Morales rematch, originally scheduled for March 2, would be pushed back. But for a couple of weeks, the news ping-ponged back and forth—it's on, it's off, it's on, it's off. Each time Barrera visited the doctor the story changed. Finally, what we had suspected all along happened, and the rematch to THE RING's 2000 Fight of the Year was rescheduled for June 22.

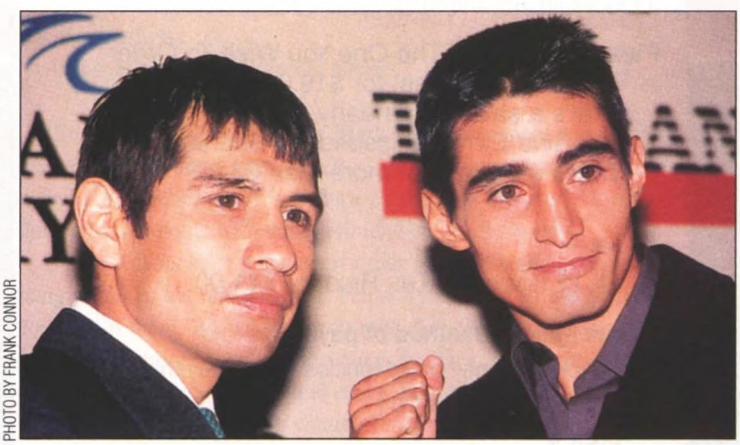


PHOTO BY FRANK CONNOR

Barrera-Morales II got pushed back three months

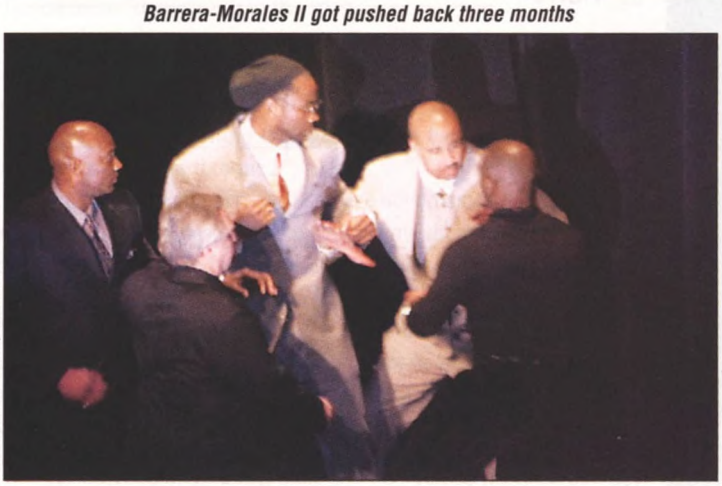


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

The Lewis-Tyson brawl ruined their April date

But the vacillation surrounding Morales-Barrera was nothing compared to the helter-skelter scramble that began the moment Nevada denied Mike Tyson's application for a boxing license. Desperate to save the original April 6 date for his match with Lennox Lewis, Team Tyson embarked on a worldwide search for a location both friendly to the fight and capable of coughing up a site fee worthy of such an extravaganza.

It was a tall order, and day after day, different locales surfaced as possibilities. California, Texas, Michigan, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., South Africa, and Denmark were all in the mix, as were the surreal duo of Lebanon and Nigeria. Even after Lewis nixed the original date, the search continued in a desperate bid to salvage the fight.

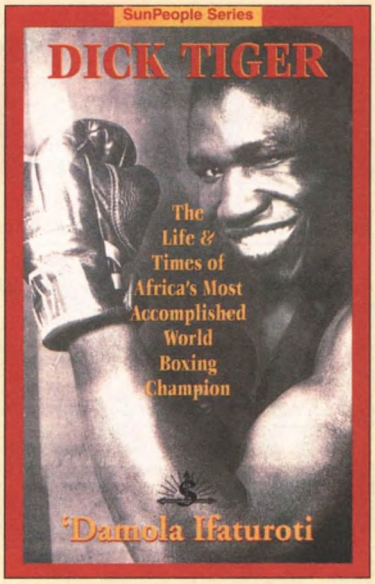
When Tyson was licensed in Georgia in February, it looked like the fight was going to Atlanta, but then Georgia Governor Roy Barnes got into the act, called Tyson a "sexual predator," and asked the commission to rescind the license.

The whole affair brought to mind the second Muhammad Ali-Sonny Liston fight, which was hounded out of so many cities and states, it wound up in a minor league hockey rink in Lewiston, Maine. That one, of course, ended badly when Liston sat down after fielding Ali's "phantom punch" in the opening round. The crowd yelled, "fix," and almost 40 years later the stink still stains everyone involved in the fiasco.

Let's pray that Lewis-Tyson, regardless of where it takes place—if indeed it does—isn't a case of history repeating itself and doesn't result in another disgrace of Ali-Liston II proportions.

—Nigel Collins

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF



Although former middleweight and light heavyweight champion Dick Tiger is the most famous African fighter of all-time, most school children (and many adults) in his native Nigeria have never even heard of him. This sad state of affairs could be rectified by the recent publication of *Dick Tiger: The Life & Times Of Africa's Most Accomplished World Boxing Champion* (Sungai Books, 110 pages, paperback) by Damola Ifaturoti.

The author, who emigrated from Nigeria to the United States in 1998, embarked on this labor of love in the hopes of restoring Tiger to his rightful status as a true hero.

"I would like to educate young Nigerians about Tiger's accomplishments and exemplary life," said Ifaturoti. "I also wanted to settle the issue of his involvement in the Biafran war."

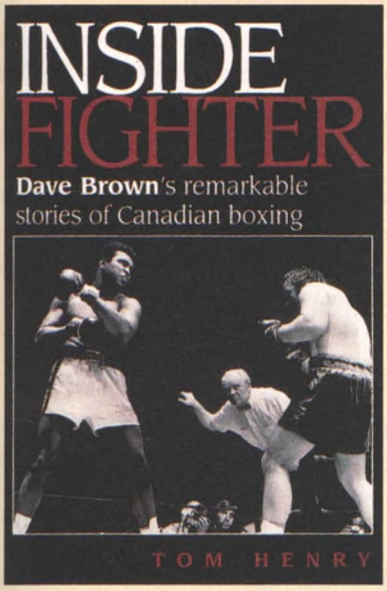
It was Tiger's role in the 1967 Nigerian civil war that led to his neglected status at home and also provides material for the most riveting chapter in Ifaturoti's book. Unfortunately for Tiger, he was on the losing side, and when the separatist movement was crushed in '70, he lost most of his assets and fell into disfavor with the ruling establishment.

An indication of how deep Nigeria's ethnic rivalries still run is that some factions were surprised that Ifaturoti, a member of the Yoruba clan, was writing a book about Tiger, an Igbo. But the fact that Ifaturoti's book was launched at a luncheon at Nigeria House in New York City, with both Nigeria's United Nations representative and Consol General on hand for the proceedings, indicated that the official attitude toward Tiger, who died of cancer in '71, has softened.

Ifaturoti feels that recognizing Tiger's deeds as an athlete and his nobility as a man could work as a unifying force for all Nigeria, a nation still racked by political instability and ethnic rivalries.

Copies of *Dick Tiger* can be purchased for $18 each (postage included) by writing to: Damola Ifaturoti, 14-08 Deer Creek Drive, Plainsboro, NJ 08536.

—Nigel Collins



Hardcore fans looking for a detailed history of boxing in Canada won't find it in *Inside Fighter: Dave Brown's Remarkable Stories Of Canadian Boxing* (Harbour Publishing, 192 pages, $32.95), but they will find a well-intentioned, deserved, if not all that remarkable homage to one of that country's longtime trench laborers.

Vancouver's Dave Brown has boxed, trained fighters, and worked as a referee and judge, and that author Tom Henry could milk a whole book out of him is actually a greater testament to his prowess as a writer than to Brown's honorable career. Brown is an important regional figure in boxing, more so, it seems, on the amateur than professional level. A feisty, independent fellow (he cast the sole vote for Iran Barkley in Barkley's WBC middleweight title fight against Roberto Duran, and claims the other officials were too intimidated to do the same), it would be interesting to hear what Brown has to say, for instance, about the five national heavyweight title fights he refereed involving George Chuvalo, which are collectively mentioned in the text and even depicted in some of the photos interspersed throughout. But there's nothing more said about them, while there is more than enough narrative about various amateur tournaments in which Brown was involved.

The writing is sometimes snazzy—has there ever been a better description of the fading Toughman phenomenon than, "the sort of popular eruption that, like Karaoke, ruined a beautiful thing by handing it to the Philistines"? But some misspellings (one-time heavyweight contender Mike DeJohn comes out "DeJong"), and leaving out Duran's victory over Davey Moore as a qualification for his bout against Barkley, leave the impression that Henry really isn't plugged in to the fight scene.

It isn't a bad read, and there are worthwhile things to be gleaned here, including Tony Dowling's jape, "Canadian heavyweights are so bad you can win the title with a letter from your mother." But you turn the pages hoping for more, and settle, at the end, for seconding the salute to a decent, noble workman of the sort disappearing too fast from the boxing landscape.

—Pete Ehrmann

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
2-1-02	**Vassiliy Jirov W 12 Jorge Castro**	**ESPN2**	**IBF c**	**A**	**C-**	**C+**
We'll say this: Castro is by far the best fat, bright-red-haired fighter we've seen in a long while						
2-2-02	Andre Eason W 8 Delvin Rodriguez	Show	jw	C	A-	B
Good, hard fight made memorable by terrific last round; both guys have good futures						
2-2-02	Hercules Kyvelos W 10 John Molnar	Show	w	C+	B+	B-
Anybody else think Kyvelos looks like Ben Stiller's evil, skinnier twin?						
2-2-02	**Bernard Hopkins KO 10 Carl Daniels**	**HBO**	**World m**	**A+**	**C-**	**C**
Bernard: You lost the first time to Roy Jones; take the 60/40 split						
2-2-02	**Roy Jones KO 7 Glen Kelly**	**HBO**	**World lh**	**A+**	**F**	**C**
Reality check: The way Jones stopped Kelly doesn't make Jones great; it makes Kelly a tomato can						
2-8-02	David Bostice W 8 Frankie Swindell	ESPN2	h	C-	C	D
Never mind the swollen eye; how did Swindell get that gut past the commission?						
2-8-02	Robert Allen W 12 Dwain Williams	ESPN2	m	C+	B	B-
Good scrap; Allen's power and experience the difference						
2-9-02	Eamonn Magee KO 6 Jon Thaxton	Show	jw	C	B+	C+
What does George Foreman always say about following around a puncher?						
2-9-02	Ricky Hatton KO 9 Mikhail Krivolapov	Show	jw	B-	C-	C+
When Hatton beats someone whose name we don't have to sound out phonetically, then call us						
2-15-02	Dorin Spivey W 10 Mike Stewart	ESPN2	jw	C	A-	B
Scores: 99-91, 99-91 for Spivey, 96-94 for Stewart; what's wrong with this picture?						
2-15-02	Kassim Ouma W 10 Michael Lerma	ESPN2	jm	B-	B-	C+
Ouma scores two early knockdowns on the way to lopsided decision win						
2-16-02	Joan Guzman W 10 Armando Guerrero	Show	jf	C	B+	C+
We don't know what Guerrero has in his chin, but he probably has a heck of a time getting through airports with it						
2-16-02	Kermit Cintron KO 2 Omar Davila	Show	w	C+	B-	B
Whatever happened to going into the ring with the color of your nation's flag on your trunks rather than your head?						
2-16-02	Jeff Lacy KO 1 Glenn Thomas	Show	sm	C+	D-	F
Of course you give the guy his purse; how many days do you go to work and try your absolute hardest?						
2-16-02	Juan Carlos Rubio W 10 Francisco Bojado	Show	w	B-	B-	A-
The fight's two most surprising revelations: Rubio's chin, Bojado's attitude						
2-16-02	Michael Moorer W 10 Robert Davis	Show	h	C+	C-	C-
Moorer has Davis nearly out in the second and spends the rest of the night jabbing; glad to see the hunger has returned						
2-22-02	Anthony Hanshaw W 10 Dana Rucker	ESPN2	lh	C	B-	B-
Hanshaw probably not a special talent, but he likes a good, hard fight; good for him						
2-22-02	Vivian Harris W 10 Michael Clark	ESPN2	jw	B-	C+	C-
Harris scores three early knockdowns then sleepwalks to a decision; who does he think he is, Michael Moorer?						
2-22-02	Jorge Paez KO 2 Tom Johnson	Telef	l	D+	B+	C+
Think about it: Paez may be the best of all the game's shot fighters						
2-22-02	Julio Gonzalez KO 2 Tyrone Armstead	Telef	lh	C+	C-	C
Bodyshots do in Armstead, who quits on his stool after the second						
2-22-02	Wilfredo Vazquez W 8 Jose Rodriguez	Telem	f	D+	D+	C-
We'd have thought the beating Juan Lazcano gave Vazquez in '00 would have convinced him to stay retired						
2-23-02	Rafael Marquez KO 8 Mark Johnson	HBO	b	B+	A	B
Don't be surprised at all if you see Johnson get a shot at Tim Austin anyway						
2-23-02	**Paulie Ayala W 12 Bones Adams**	**HBO**	**World jf**	**A**	**A**	**B**
Looked to us like Adams decided going in that he couldn't beat Ayala; he was right						
2-24-02	Ricardo Williams W 10 Anthony Washington	ESPN	jw	C+	B-	B
Good to see Williams tested early here; he passed the test						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN—Fox SportsNet; Uni—Univision; Telem—Telemundo, Telef—Telefutura

TWICE AS NICE?

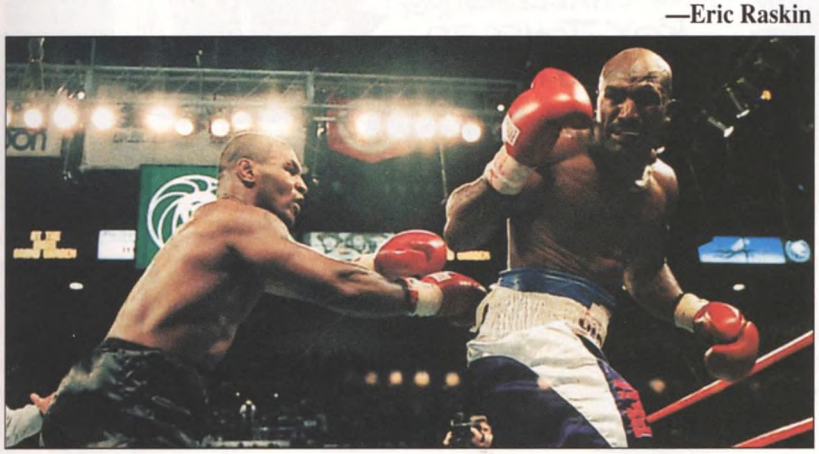
Robinson-Gatti II was a hit, Holyfield-Tyson II (bottom) simply bit

Nobody's crazy enough to expect the Marco Antonio Barrera-Erik Morales rematch to be better than their mesmerizing first encounter, which was named Fight of the Year by THE RING in 2000. But will it at least be comparable? Or will the magic they produced two years ago be gone, due to the passing of time and the adjusting of styles?

A look back at the last 10 RING Fight of the Year winners to which there were rematches shows that it's about a 50-50 shot. Some were almost on par with their predecessors, others were rather ho-hum, and one was perhaps the greatest atrocity in boxing history. What follows is a listing of the results of the Fight of the Year original and of the rematch, with a brief commentary on how the second fight stacked up.

Paulie Ayala W 12 Johnny Tapia, 1999; Ayala W 12 Tapia, 2000
A little more boxing, a little less brawling, but still a high-quality fight
Ivan Robinson W 10 Arturo Gatti, 1998; Robinson W 10 Gatti, 1998
Same scintillating action, but lacking the dramatic late rally by Gatti
Evander Holyfield KO 11 Mike Tyson, 1996; Holyfield W Disq. 3 Tyson, 1997
A major bummer as Tyson fouls out in biggest PPV in history
Jorge Castro KO 9 John David Jackson, 1994; Castro W 10 Jackson, 1998
Fifteen pounds later, just a meaningless 10-rounder between two vets
Michael Carbajal KO 7 Chiquita Gonzalez, 1993; Gonzalez W 12 Carbajal, 1994
Nowhere near as thrilling, as Gonzalez boxes carefully to even score
Riddick Bowe W 12 Evander Holyfield, 1992; Holyfield W 12 Bowe, 1993
Not quite as good as the first, but just as memorable thanks to Fan Man
Julio Cesar Chavez KO 12 Meldrick Taylor, 1990; Chavez KO 8 Taylor, 1994
First fight ruined Taylor, making second one easy for Chavez
Tony Lopez W 12 Rocky Lockridge, 1988; Lopez W 12 Lockridge, 1989
Solid rematch, but more one-sided, with no come-from-behind rally necessary
Ray Leonard KO 14 Tommy Hearns, 1981; Leonard D 12 Hearns, 1989
Both past their primes, yet might have been a classic if scheduled for 15
Leon Spinks W 15 Muhammad Ali, 1978; Ali W 15 Spinks, 1978
Ali's rematch resurrection on par with Spinks' stunner in first fight

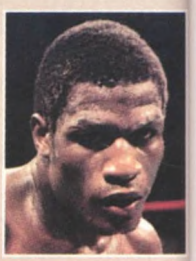
—Eric Raskin



OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Lewis: Cleaning up in court

Clark County, Nevada, prosecutors decided in late-February not to press charges in two sexual assault cases against **Mike Tyson**, saying there was no evidence to prove whether the sexual interactions, which occurred last year in Las Vegas, were consensual or forced ... Since the infamous draw decision in his first bout with **Evander Holyfield** at Madison Square Garden, heavyweight champion **Lennox Lewis** has been doing quite well with decisions in New York. In mid-February, a New York jury ruled that his former promoter **Panos Eliades** was guilty of fraud with regard to Lewis' income from assorted bouts. The judgment called for Lewis to be awarded $8.3-million, and also for Lewis' current promoter, Main Events, to receive $680,000 in damages from Eliades and his company, Panix Promotions ... Troubled heavyweight **Ike Ibeabuchi** isn't doing as well with the legal system. In late-January, Ibeabuchi requested to change the guilty plea he made last November on a sexual assault charge, asserting that he was drugged when he made the plea bargain, but Las Vegas judge **Joseph Bonaventure** denied the request and sentenced him to five to 30 years in prison ... Former heavyweight contender **Randall "Tex" Cobb** was dealt a nasty blow by the legal system in late-January as well, when a federal appeals court overturned a January 2000 jury decision in which Cobb was awarded $10.7-million in a libel case against *Sports Illustrated*. The appeals court ruled that the magazine made its allegations—that Cobb had participated in a fixed fight and also used cocaine—without malicious intent. Cobb is reportedly planning to appeal and take the case to the Supreme Court ... The New York District Attorney's office formally charged super middleweight **James "The Harlem Hammer" Butler** with second-degree assault in early-February for his postfight attack on opponent **Richard Grant** last November. The charge carries a maximum penalty of seven years in prison ... Enigmatic former heavyweight contender **Andrew Golota** was arrested in early-February for impersonating a police officer. When pulled over for a stop sign violation in Bolingbrook, Illinois, Golota reportedly pulled out a badge and told the State Trooper he was a "special officer." Golota was arrested and released on $500 bond ... Two former titleholders announced their retirements in January. Ex-WBA junior lightweight and lightweight beltholder **Takanori Hatakeyama** called it quits at the age of 26, six months after losing his 135-pound strap to **Julien Lorcy**. Hatakeyama, who had temporarily retired following his junior lightweight title loss as well, explained simply, "I would like to prepare for my second life after this retirement." Also, former WBC super middleweight titlist **Richie Woodhall** indicated that he is hanging up the gloves due to persisting back problems. Woodhall, 33, hadn't fought since losing competitively to **Joe Calzaghe** in December '00 ... There are three deaths to report this issue, and sadly, all were active boxers. First is the tragic tale of heavyweight **Ricky Womack**, who, after serving 16 years in prison for armed robbery and attempted murder, was 4-0 in his boxing comeback before shooting himself in mid-January. Former amateur star Womack, 40, was having tremendous difficulty adjusting to life outside of jail, according to those close to him ... Veteran welterweight and junior middleweight contender **Andrew Murray** died from injuries sustained in a car accident in his native Guyana in late-January. Murray, 30, had unsuccessfully challenged **Ike Quartey** for the WBA welter title in '95 ... Thai boxer **Chatchai Phaisithong** died a day after collapsing during a bout in Pattaya, Thailand, with Russian **Alexi Berarut**. A doctor attributed the death to heart failure, but the boxer's family refused an autopsy, preventing possible confirmation. Chatchai was 28 years old.



Murray: Dies in auto accident

THE PUNCHLINES

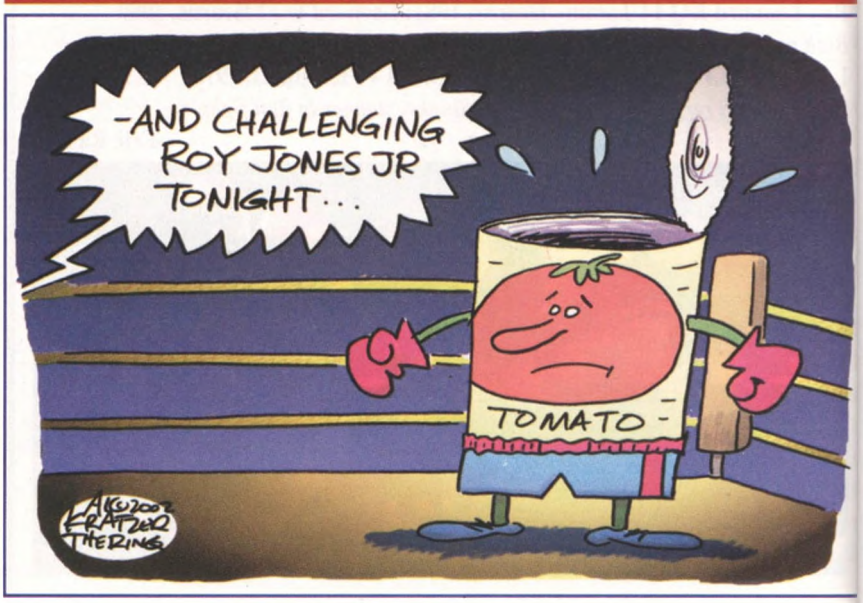
"If a 90-year-old grandmother signs to fight me, and she has a pair of gloves on, I'm going to jump on her and take her out."

—Bernard Hopkins, responding to questions of whether second-rate challenger Carl Daniels could bring out the best in him

"What's Mike going to do if he can't fight? ... I can't exactly see him flipping hamburgers somewhere."

—Trainer Tommy Brooks, on Mike Tyson

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

(For period ended February 25, 2002)

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Middleweight
2. **ROY JONES** Light Heavyweight
3. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA** Featherweight
4. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** Junior Lightweight
5. **VERNON FORREST** Welterweight
6. **FELIX TRINIDAD** Middleweight
7. **SHANE MOSLEY** Welterweight
8. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** Junior Middleweight
9. **RICARDO LOPEZ** Junior Flyweight
10. **KOSTYA TSZYU** Junior Welterweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No changes.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: Big shakeup as WBC titlist Juan Carlos Gomez (number one last issue) exits, having relinquished the belt in order to campaign as a heavyweight. The top spot is now occupied by Vassiliy Jirov (formerly second). Newly aboard at number three is Frenchman Jean-Marc Mormeck, who stopped Virgil Hill for the WBA title. Hill falls from fourth to seventh.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: No changes.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Carl Daniels (formerly eighth) is gone following his TKO loss to world champion Bernard Hopkins. Daniels' departure pushes up Antonio Perugino from ninth to eighth, and Tito Mendoza from 10th to ninth. Back at number 10 is Robert Allen.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Streaking Kassim Ouma debuts at number seven, which shoves Alex Bunema, over whom Ouma holds a victory, down from seventh to eighth. Steve Roberts, who has been more active and has faced better competition than Roman Karmazin, passes the Russian, but remains at number nine due to Ouma's arrival. Karmazin, meanwhile, falls from eighth to 10th, and Mamadou Thiam (10th last issue) leaves as a result of the reshuffling.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: No changes.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: No changes.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: Paulie Ayala (second last issue) wins the world 122-pound championship by virtue of his decision over Bones Adams (first last issue), and is now listed above the contenders. Ayala is the sixth world champ recognized under THE RING'S new championship policy. IBF beltholder Manny Pacquiao (third last issue) takes over the number-one spot, while Adams slips to number two. New WBA boss Yoddamrong Sithyodthong crashes the ratings at number seven, thanks to his title-winning decision over Yober Ortega (eighth last issue), who departs. Filling the eighth spot is Osamu Sato, who fought to a controversial draw with WBC titlist Willie Jorrin.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: Rafael Marquez jumps from fourth to third on the strength of his knockout of Mark Johnson, who was formerly fifth. Johnson, who says he will drop down to junior bantam, exits the 118-pound ranks. Eidy Moya falls from third to fourth to accommodate Marquez' advancement, while Johnny Bredahl, Mauricio Martinez, Adan Vargas, Heriberto Ruiz, and Genaro Garcia all get bumped up one notch each due to Johnson's departure. Toshiaki Nishioka is aboard at number 10.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

STRAWWEIGHTS: Joma Gamboa slides from fifth to seventh following his loss to Keitaro Hoshino (who remains ranked fourth) for the vacant WBA title. Noel Arambulet moves from sixth to fifth, and Wandee Singwangcha improves from seventh to sixth.

POUND-FOR-POUND: No changes. ■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended February 25, 2002

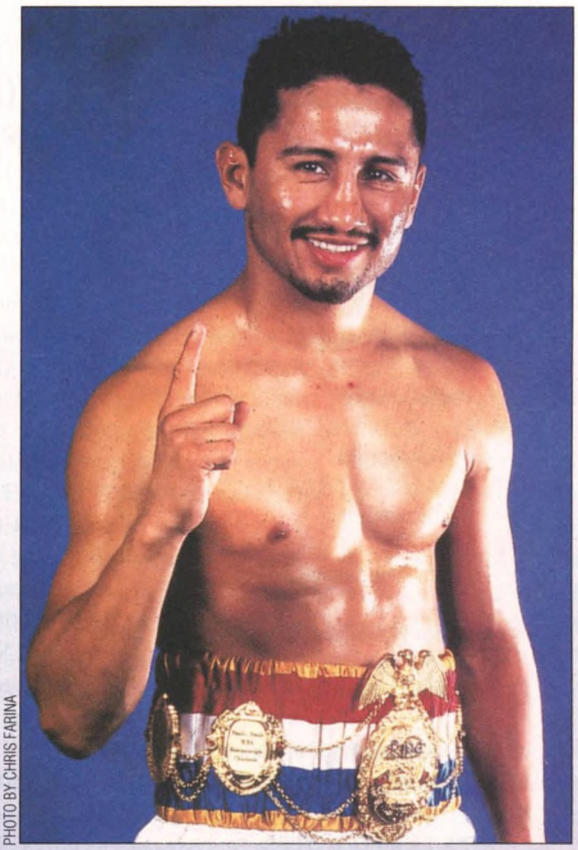


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Paulie Ayala's win over Bones Adams made him the champ at junior featherweight

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

Fighters recognized as champions by THE RING are rated at the top of their division, with the top 10 contenders listed below.

Championship vacancies can be filled in one of two ways: by unifying all three alphabet titles in a division; or by winning a box-off between THE RING'S number-one and number-two contenders, or, in certain instances, a box-off between our number-one and number-three contenders.

The only three occasions when a fighter will lose his championship status are when he retires, moves to another weight division, or is defeated in a championship bout.

Ratings By The Editors
Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

Champ: LENNOX LEWIS
England 39-2-1

1. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine 37-1
2. **MIKE TYSON**
Catskill, NY 49-3
3. **CHRIS BYRD**
Flint, MI 34-2
4. **HASIM RAHMAN**
Baltimore, MD 35-3
5. **KIRK JOHNSON**
Canada 32-0-1
6. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Fairburn, GA 37-5-2
7. **JOHN RUIZ**
Chelsea, MA 37-4-1
8. **JAMEEL McCLINE**
Port Jefferson, NY 27-2-3
9. **FRES OQUENDO**
Puerto Rico 22-0
10. **DAVID TUA**
New Zealand 39-3

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
Whittier, CA 34-2
2. **FERNANDO VARGAS**
Oxnard, CA 22-1
3. **WINKY WRIGHT**
St. Petersburg, FL 43-3
4. **FRANCISCO CASTILLEJO**
Spain 52-5
5. **BRONCO McKART**
Monroe, MI 45-3
6. **YORY BOY CAMPAS**
Mexico 79-4
7. **KASSIM OUMA**
W. Palm Beach, FL 15-1-1
8. **ALEX BUNEMA**
Dallas, TX 19-3-1
9. **STEVE ROBERTS**
England 28-0
10. **ROMAN KARMAZIN**
Russia 28-0-1

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
Mexico 54-3
2. **ERIK MORALES**
Mexico 41-0
3. **NASEEM HAMED**
England 35-1
4. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
Albuquerque, NM 51-2-2
5. **DERRICK GAINER**
Pensacola, FL 38-5
6. **MANUEL MEDINA**
Mexico 60-11
7. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico 37-2
8. **FRANKIE TOLEDO**
Paterson, NJ 40-6-1
9. **JULIO PABLO CHACON**
Argentina 43-2
10. **MBULELO BOTILE**
South Africa 27-2

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

Champ: PAULIE AYALA
Ft. Worth, TX 34-1

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines 33-2-1
2. **BONES ADAMS**
Henderson, KY 41-5-3
3. **WILLIE JORRIN**
Sacramento, CA 28-0-1
4. **LEHLO LEDWABA**
South Africa 33-2-1
5. **OSCAR LARIOS**
Mexico 42-3-1
6. **MICHAEL BRODIE**
England 32-1
7. **YODDAMRONG SITHYODTHONG**
Thailand 18-0-1
8. **OSAMU SATO**
Japan 25-1-2
9. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
Mexico 29-2-2
10. **ISRAEL VAZQUEZ**
Mexico 32-2

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **TIM AUSTIN**
Cincinnati, OH 24-0-1
2. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM**
Thailand 35-1-1
3. **RAFAEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico 27-3
4. **EIDY MOYA**
Venezuela 15-1
5. **JOHNNY BREDAHL**
Denmark 51-2
6. **MAURICIO MARTINEZ**
Panama 19-3-1
7. **ADAN VARGAS**
Mexico 36-3-1
8. **HERIBERTO RUIZ**
Mexico 24-1-1
9. **GENARO GARCIA**
Mexico 24-3
10. **TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA**
Japan 22-3-2

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **VASSILIY JIROV**
   Kazakhstan 31-0
2. **JOHNNY NELSON**
   England 41-12-1
3. **JEAN-MARC MORMECK**
   France 27-2
4. **WAYNE BRAITHWAITE**
   Guyana 17-0
5. **EZRA SELLERS**
   Washington, D.C. 24-4
6. **O'NEIL BELL**
   Atlanta, GA 17-1
7. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND 47-4
8. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ**
   Argentina 32-4-1
9. **ALEXANDRE GUROV**
   Ukraine 29-3-1
10. **JORGE CASTRO**
    Argentina 120-8-3

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 175 pounds

Champ: ROY JONES
Pensacola, FL 46-1

1. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI**
   Germany 45-0
2. **ERIC HARDING**
   Philadephia, PA 21-1-1
3. **ANTONIO TARVER**
   Orlando, FL 19-1
4. **REGGIE JOHNSON**
   Houston, TX 42-7-1
5. **MONTELL GRIFFIN**
   Chicago, IL 42-3
6. **DAVID TELESCO**
   Port Chester, NY 26-3
7. **JULIO GONZALEZ**
   Huntington Beach, CA 28-1
8. **BRUNO GIRARD**
   France 40-2-2
9. **LOU DEL VALLE**
   Bronx, NY 31-2-1
10. **CLINTON WOODS**
    England 40-1

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **SVEN OTTKE**
   Germany 25-0
2. **JOE CALZAGHE**
   Wales 32-0
3. **BYRON MITCHELL**
   Ozark, AL 24-1-1
4. **ANTWUN ECHOLS**
   Davenport, IA 26-4-1
5. **CHARLES BREWER**
   Philadelphia, PA 37-8
6. **THOMAS TATE**
   Houston, TX 41-6
7. **ERIC LUCAS**
   Canada 34-4-3
8. **MADS LARSEN**
   Denmark 39-1
9. **MANUEL SIACA**
   Puerto Rico 15-4
10. **MARKUS BEYER**
    Germany 23-1

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

Champ: BERNARD HOPKINS
Philadelphia, PA 41-2-1

1. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico 40-1
2. **WILLIAM JOPPY**
   Washington, D.C. 33-2-1
3. **HOWARD EASTMAN**
   England 32-1
4. **ARMAND KRAJNC**
   Sweden 26-0
5. **HARRY SIMON**
   Namibia 22-0
6. **KEITH HOLMES**
   Washington, D.C. 35-3
7. **HASSINE CHERIFI**
   France 32-5-1
8. **ANTONIO PERUGINO**
   Italy 18-0
9. **TITO MENDOZA**
   Panama 26-3
10. **ROBERT ALLEN**
    Atlanta, GA 31-4

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

Champ: VERNON FORREST
Atlanta, GA 34-0

1. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA 38-1
2. **ANDREW LEWIS**
   Guyana 21-0-1
3. **THOMAS DAMGAARD**
   Denmark 27-0
4. **DANIEL SANTOS**
   Puerto Rico 24-2-1
5. **ANTONIO DIAZ**
   Coachella, CA 37-3
6. **ANTONIO MARGARITO**
   Mexico 25-3
7. **MANUEL GOMEZ**
   Mexico 22-10
8. **MICHELE PICCIRILLO**
   Italy 36-1-1
9. **CORY SPINKS**
   St. Louis, MO 29-1
10. **DANNY PEREZ**
    El Cajon, CA 26-2

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

Champ: KOSTYA TSZYU
Australia 28-1-1

1. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Washington, D.C. 47-3
2. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY 27-1
3. **DeMARCUS CORLEY**
   Washington, D.C. 27-1-1
4. **BEN TACKIE**
   Ghana 24-2
5. **RANDALL BAILEY**
   Miami, FL 25-1
6. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
   San Antonio, TX 43-5-2
7. **MICKY WARD**
   Lowell, MA 37-11
8. **OKTAY URKAL**
   Germany 28-1
9. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ 34-5
10. **RICKY HATTON**
    England 28-0

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **JOSE LUIS CASTILLO**
   Mexico 45-4-1
2. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO 33-2-1
3. **PAUL SPADAFORA**
   Pittsburgh, PA 34-0
4. **LEONARD DORIN**
   Canada 20-0
5. **RAUL BALBI**
   France 49-5-1
6. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN 39-5-1
7. **JULIO DIAZ**
   Coachella, CA 24-1
8. **ARTUR GRIGORIAN**
   Uzbekistan 34-0
9. **JUAN LAZCANO**
   El Paso, TX 28-2-1
10. **COLIN DUNNE**
    England 36-1

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Grand Rapids, MI 27-0
2. **ACELINO FREITAS**
   Brazil 31-0
3. **JOEL CASAMAYOR**
   Miami, FL 26-1
4. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Mexico 35-2
5. **STEVE FORBES**
   Las Vegas, NV 20-1
6. **JONGKWON BAEK**
   South Korea 22-1-1
7. **LAKVA SIM**
   Mongolia 15-2-1
8. **PHILLIP NDOU**
   South Africa 25-1
9. **JOHN BROWN**
   Atlantic City, NJ 23-9
10. **LAMONT PEARSON**
    Capital Heights, MD 17-0-1

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **MASAMORI TOKUYAMA**
   North Korea 25-2-1
2. **CELES KOBAYASHI**
   Japan 24-4-3
3. **FELIX MACHADO**
   Venezuela 21-3-1
4. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines 43-4-2
5. **SAMSON TOYOTA-THAILAND**
   Thailand 41-0
6. **JESUS ROJAS**
   Venezuela 34-9-3
7. **PEDRO ALCAZAR**
   Panama 22-1-1
8. **IN JOO CHO**
   South Korea 18-2
9. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia 27-3
10. **MARTIN CASTILLO**
    Mexico 21-0

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **ERIC MOREL**
   Madison, WI 31-0
2. **PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM**
   Thailand 42-2
3. **IRENE PACHECO**
   Colombia 26-0
4. **HAWK MAKEPULA**
   South Africa 20-1
5. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico 47-3
6. **FERNANDO MONTIEL**
   Mexico 23-0-1
7. **MEDGOEN TOYOTA-THAILAND**
   Thailand 24-1
8. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand 40-1
9. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   Philippines 11-1-2
10. **ALEXANDER MUNOZ**
    Venezuela 17-0

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Mexico 50-0-1
2. **ROSENDO ALVAREZ**
   Nicaragua 31-2-1
3. **YOSAM CHOI**
   South Korea 24-1
4. **BEBIS MENDOZA**
   Colombia 26-1
5. **PICHIT SIRIWAT**
   Thailand 24-2
6. **NELSON DIEPPA**
   Puerto Rico 21-2-1
7. **JORGE ARCE**
   Mexico 27-3-1
8. **HIDENOBU HONDA**
   Japan 23-1
9. **ZOLANI PETELO**
   South Africa 17-3-2
10. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
    South Africa 51-12-2

STRAWWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico 26-1-1
2. **ROBERTO LEYVA**
   Mexico 19-0-1
3. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand 46-2-2
4. **KEITARO HOSHINO**
   Japan 23-7
5. **NOEL ARAMBULET**
   Venezuela 14-2-1
6. **WANDEE SINGWANGCHA**
   Thailand 29-4
7. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines 31-7-1
8. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
   Colombia 33-2
9. **DANIEL REYES**
   Colombia 25-1
10. **MIGUEL BARRERA**
    Colombia 21-0-2

NEW FACES

ANDRE EASON

Junior Welterweight

By Joe Santoliquito

PRO RECORD

1999		
Dec. 4	Adrian Reed, Augusta, GA	KO 1
2000		
May 16	Luis Lopez, Yonkers, NY	W 4
Oct. 13	Freddie Cadena, Ledyard, CT	L 4
2001		
Feb. 21	Julio Martinez, Atlantic City	KO 4
March 16	Juan Cruz, Philadelphia	W 6
June 23	James Mitchell, Uncasville, CT	KO 1
Aug. 18	Ron Greer, Uncasville	W 6
Oct. 2	Sam Sparkman, Memphis, TN	KO 3
2002		
Feb. 2	Delvin Rodriguez, Atlantic City	W 8

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DRAW	KOs
9	8	1	0	4

Andre Eason didn't spend time planning his future. Everything was always laid out directly in front of him, one cautious step at a time. It was the crack-of-gunfire existence Eason was brought up in that forced him to think that way. On Wall Street in Manhattan, the saying "You snooze, you lose," rings true. But in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn, if you snooze, you die. So Eason dealt with the pulsating thought, *No time to dream, no time to think about a future.*

The kid tried to keep to himself in that environment. Somehow, though, Eason could never manage to steer clear from the surrounding chaos. He always had to inflict his own personal sort of violence, sparked by inane things. Someone would say something, or step on his new pair of sneakers, and, inevitably, they were going down. The quick temper led him to the entrance of six different public schools.

Eason laughs about those times, because he's older now, more relaxed, more secure with himself. He's managed to harness the anger and is using it for positive means in the boxing ring, where the 26-year-old junior welterweight has forged an 8-1 (4) record, handing five of his nine opponents their first pro defeat.

Fighting has always been a part of the 5'6" Eason's life. Boxing has served as the one area where he can rely solely on himself, since he's become accustomed to not relying on others.

"I used to fight a lot when I was young," Eason recalled. "I was always the short one, so I used to get picked on. I was like the smallest guy in the school. People would say things to me, but I didn't care how big anyone was, I'd fight them.

"I never took nothin' from nobody. I was just bad. I was a gangsta. I grew up in a part Brooklyn that was bad. You can wake up a hear gunshots everywhere. It wasn't easy gro ing up, and I grew up fast; I grew up young knew a lot of things that you wouldn't think a tle kid would know. One thing I knew was tha could never sleep. That's when they'll get you.

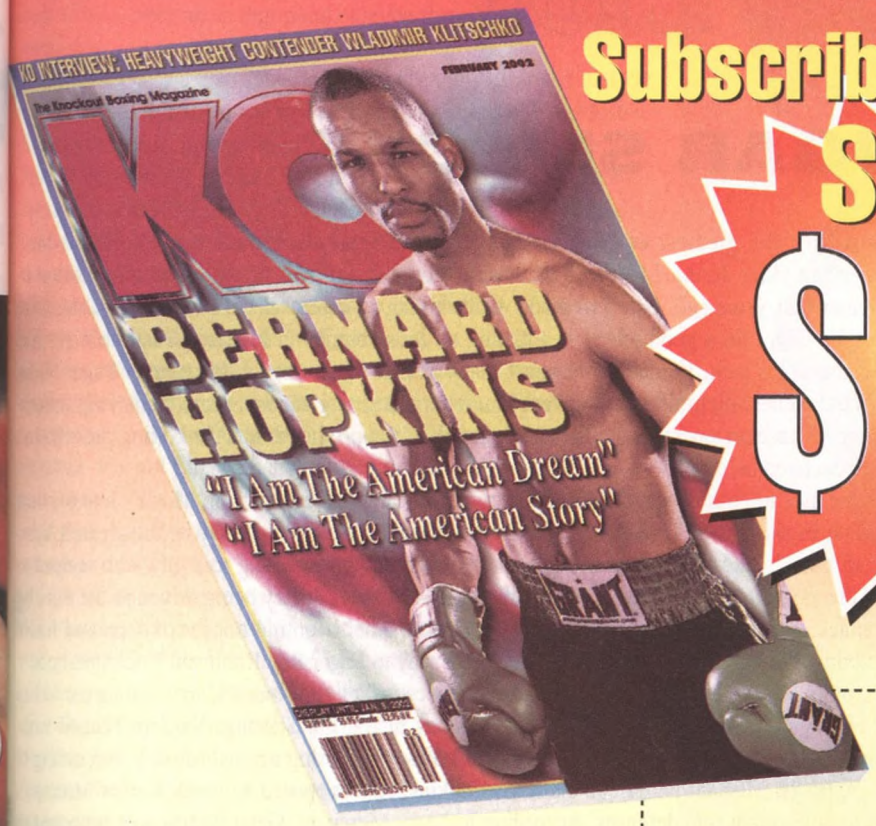
Ever since he can remember, Eason has be on his own. His mother, Luisa Castellano, rais Eason by herself. He never knew his fath though he met him once in court.

"My mom was there, but she couldn't pr vide everything for me that I wanted, so I'd ge myself," Eason said. "I don't consider anyo my father. I had to become a man on my ow We have a big family, but I never got a whole of support at home. I had to worry about

(Continued on page 9

THE KNOCKOUT MAGAZINE

In Knockout Color ... At Knockout Savings!



Subscribe Today And Save $5

Subscribe to *KO* for six issues and pocket a cool savings of nearly five bucks, plus you'll enjoy the convenience of getting *KO* delivered to your door. It couldn't be easier.

KO has entertained and informed fight fans for a generation with its trademark of excellence—the most informed feature writers, controversial columnists, and accomplished photographers. Now *KO* offers this package in an all-color, glossy format!

KO The Boxing Fans' Magazine

Send to:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2021
Marion, OH 43306-8121

SAVE ALMOST $5.00!

☐ YES! I would like to receive 6 issues of *KO* for $19.00!

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card # _____

Expiration Date: ___/___ MO/YR

Signature: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. ____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Price applies in U.S. only. Canada and all foreign countries: $23.80 ($34.00 airmail). International money orders in U.S. funds only for all orders outside U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue. Offer expires January 31, 2003.

A0402R

5784/11-01/4-c

RYAN OUT LOUD

SUGAR SMACKS

By Jeff Ryan

This wasn't the greatest of winters for guys who pronounce their names, "Mose-lee." American skier Jonny Moseley, who won Olympic gold in the moguls competition i Nagano four years ago, failed to medal while trying to defend his crown in Salt Lake Cit Simply put, he didn't do a good job of negotiating all those bumps in his path. Shane Mosley ha only one bump in his path, Vernon Forrest, but that was more than enough to separate Sugar Shan from the WBC welterweight title and prevent him from redefining superstardom, achieving immo tality, getting his face on a postage stamp, and doing all of those other things the boxing press had breathlessly declared he'd do.

It would be nice to chastise my fellow fight scribes for their haste in turning Mosley into the ne great megastar in our midst. (Three years ago, *Sport* magazine said he "just may be the greatest ligh weight of all-time." Yikes!) But yours truly was also guilty of overreacting to a guy who seemed have all of the tools and the right head to go with them. Watching Mosley being driven to the floor b Forrest's attack, it was easy to flash back to some of those other haunting images of supposed futu legends missing the exit and taking a wrong turn on the way to Sugar Ray Robinson's neighborhood.

Like a groggy Mike Tyson fumbling for his mouthpiece in Tokyo, Donald Curry getting carved u by Lloyd Honeyghan, Mark Breland landing at the feet of Marlon Starling, Naseem Hamed wob bling against Marco Antonio Barrera, and Oscar De La Hoya faltering against Mosley. According the press clippings, Michael Nunn, not Bernard Hopkins, was supposed to break Carlos Monzon record for middleweight title defenses. According to Larry Merchant, Gabe Ruelas was supposed be the next Duran and brothe Rafael the next Arguello. Oh yeah, and let's not forget Za Judah getting an 11-page sprea in *Sports Illustrated* right befor Kostya Tszyu spread him lik peanut butter.

PHOTO BY HERBY WHYNE/SPORTZFRAME

Forrest showed us why it's foolish to rush to judgment

In light of the stunning defe of 7-1 favorite Mosley, whic came on the heels of Feli Trinidad getting knocked back o his heels too many times to cou against Hopkins last Septembe perhaps it's time to reevaluate th knee-jerk overreactions we hav each time a good-looking cham turns in an impressive perfor mance or two. From now on maybe we should take a dee breath and follow these guideline before we get all carried awa and shift into the type-and-hyp mode:

1) Don't dismiss anything in

fighter's past: Not wanting to gum up the gears of the bandwagon, we have a tendency to conveniently overlook previous events that reveal a star's vulnerability. Take the case of Trinidad. After "Tito" blew away David Reid, Fernando Vargas, and William Joppy, we forgot about his effort against De La Hoya. But no matter what the scorecards said, and no matter how much De La Hoya backpedaled in the late rounds, the truth is that Tito lost what was the biggest bout of his career up to that point. Maybe that should have been a warning.

In retrospect, we also shouldn't have been too surprised that De La Hoya couldn't solve the mystery of a smart boxer like Mosley. Especially taking into account "The Golden Boy's" struggle with Pernell Whitaker (a De La Hoya defeat, the judging notwithstanding) three years earlier. And, apparently, we shouldn't have dismissed Forrest's win over Mosley in the '92 Olympic Trials as an insignificant amateur result. Forrest, it's now clear, has Mosley's number. He won 10 of the 12 rounds in their January clash and was able to land his combinations with ease.

2) Temper the plaudits until the rising star beats more than one upper-echelon opponent: Mosley's reputation was built on outboxing De La Hoya and battering a bunch of guys who were overmatched. It's not Sugar Shane's fault that he couldn't get the marquee names who reside between 140 and 154 pounds to set a date with him, but it's the media's fault that it couldn't be patient enough to delay Mosley's canonizing until he did.

3) Withhold judgment until adversity strikes: Sometimes, we don't know what a fighter has inside of him until he encounters a real problem for the first time. Think of Cassius Clay running for his life until his eyes stopped burning against Sonny Liston, a one-eyed Sugar Ray Leonard rallying to knock out Tommy Hearns, and Hopkins being bodyslammed on his shoulder by Antwun Echols, ignoring the incredible pain shooting through his arm, and stopping his foe four rounds later.

In the battle with Forrest, Mosley never recovered from the accidental headbutt that opened a cut in his hairline in the second round. He hit the canvas for the first time in his career soon after the clash of heads and was never able to establish a rhythm after that. Said Mosley's publicist, Norman Horton, "The kid had never seen his own blood before."

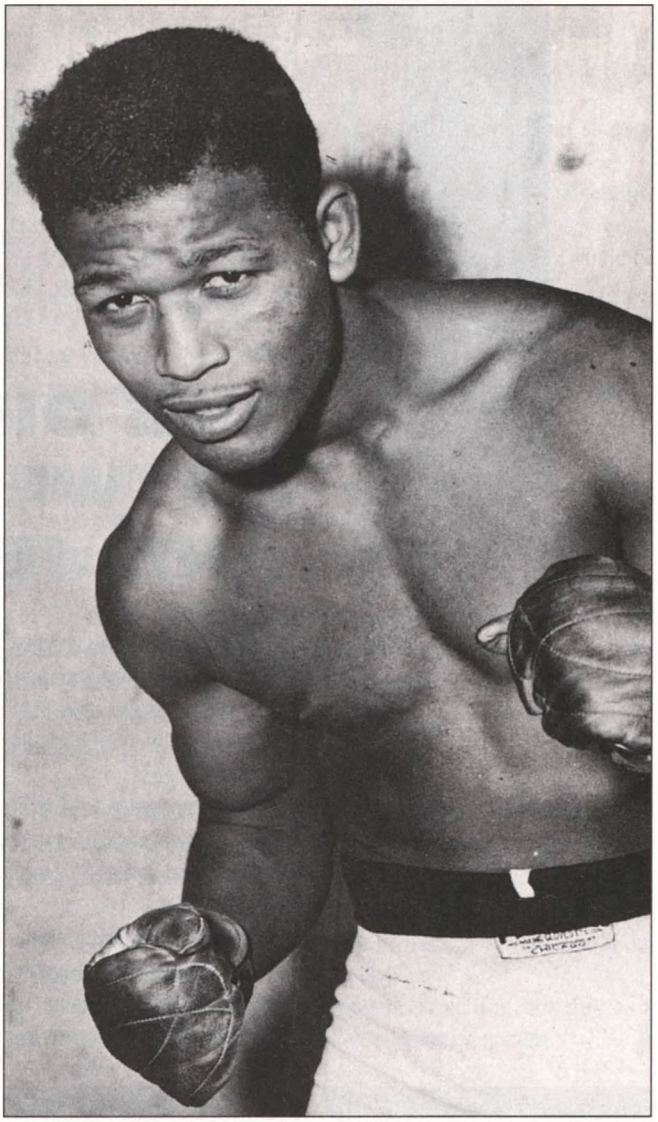
The great fighters think of the crimson on their faces as war paint. The overrated fighters get a taste of their blood and get thrown off their games.

4) If it sounds really stupid, don't say it: Merchant ought to offer advice about choosing one's words carefully to analyst Max Kellerman, who recently wrote on ESPN's Web site that Jones "makes us wonder if we are watching the greatest fighter of all-time. Roy draws comparisons not only with Sugar Ray Robinson, but with Babe Ruth and Michael Jordan."

Hey, Max, I have just one thing to say: It's hard for me to envision Sugar Ray Robinson ducking Dariusz Michalczewski, okay?

Oh, and speaking of Walker Smith Jr. ...

5) Don't refer to anyone as "Sugar": The nickname probably should have been retired along with Robinson, but at least Sugar Ray Leonard proved a worthy successor to it by beating guys like Benitez, Hearns, Duran, and Hagler, and becoming a legend. Sugar Ray Seales, Sugar Shane Mosley, and Sugar Whoever Else Comes Along, however, ought to apologize for their conceit.



Maybe the "Sugar" nickname should have been retired with Robinson

6) Scrap the pound-for-pound ratings: They're senseless because there is no way possible to judge their accuracy. How do we really know that Barrera is a better fighter than Tszyu if they can't square off? Sure, pound-for-pound is a fun topic to kick around in a bar, at an editorial meeting, or during a fishing trip. But we start to take it too seriously when we elevate unproven titlists to the top spot on the basis of one big win, then use that lofty pound-for-pound status as justification for our lauding of them.

Too often, we in the boxing press are guilty of promoting fighters in the pound-for-pound ratings on the basis of their potential instead of their accomplishments. Judging by his thin resume, the closeness of his most important victory, and the unanswered questions surrounding him, Shane Mosley never deserved all the accolades, so many feature stories, and the designation of the best fighter, pound-for-pound, on the planet. Of course, that's easy to say now.

Let's see if we can avoid getting sucked into the same trap with the next "sensation" that seems on the fast track to greatness. Our test should come soon. Right around the time Floyd Mayweather starts collecting lightweight belts like they're toys in a McDonald's Happy Meal. ■

DIGGING DEEP

By Ivan Goldman

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MIKE TYSON AND JEFFREY DAHMER

From time to time, Mike Tyson escapes his handlers. They expect that. Afterward, their job is to spread around bundles of his cash. This lets him stay out of jail, and, more important, continue carrying them on his financial shoulders. The sums they distribute are never divulged, but there's usually enough to take care of the broken furniture, torn brassieres, stray teeth, and other collateral damage.

But every once in a while, there are more serious repercussions. When Tyson charged toward Lennox Lewis at that New York press conference, he upset a multi-gazillion-dollar deal to fight at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas that had been hammered out in protracted negotiations among lots of big players.

Even HBO and Showtime had signed off on it, which is like persuading Ariel Sharon and Yasser Arafat to go bowling together. But once again Tyson reminded everyone that staking their future on him is like hiring a financial consultant who wears a beanie with a propeller on it.

Tyson spotted Lewis' leg in the ensuing pile-up and proved once again that he's boxing's own version of Jeffrey Dahmer, only less squeamish. Dahmer had standards. He demanded his victims be killed and cooked. The less fastidious Tyson saw the leg, got the munchies, and, well, what's a maniac to do? Unfortunately, the Nevada commissioners would later decide enough was enough. They couldn't take the chance that he might resume dining on their territory.

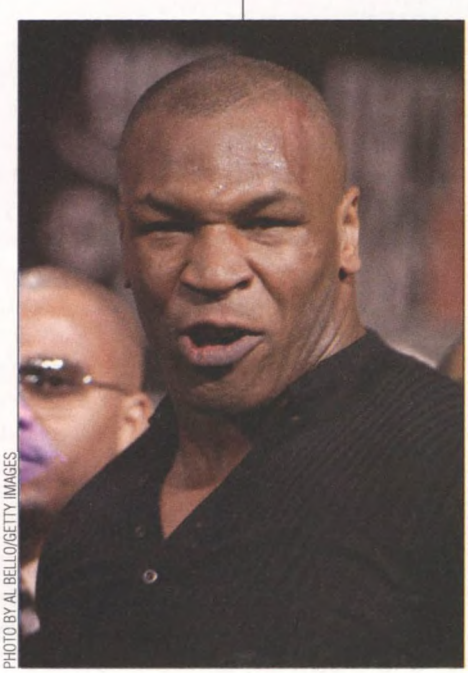


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Tyson has a few choice words for the media

Mike, after purportedly sinking his fangs into Lewis' thigh, hung around a while to clutch suggestively at his Lebowski and yell ugly, convict-style oaths at one of the reporters.

Eventually, when Tyson left the room with his mercenaries, stray babes hanging around the hotel rushed up and kissed him. Women always go for the sensitive guys.

It's a good thing Tyson's adviser, Shelly Finkel, is always around after Tyson's latest atrocity to give us the scoop on why he didn't really do anything wrong, why his actions were misconstrued, and why Tyson actually deserves a medal or something. Finkel is so convincing that each time I feel awful for having suspected even for a moment that Tyson might have strayed from the straight and narrow.

Did you know, for instance, that when reporters spotted Tyson in a hotel lobby in Cuba and he started throwing glass holiday ornaments at them, he was just carrying on an old family tradition? Around Christmas, the Tyson clan loves to get together with their friends and throw deadly missiles at one another. It goes back many generations. But once again society refused to make allowances for the beat of his different drum.

GATTI AND SINATRA: Arturo Gatti was taking so much punishment in the past couple years that I was hoping he would retire. But now that he's

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Gatti boxed surprisingly well against Millett

training with Buddy McGirt, a great ring general in his time, Gatti has taken on a whole new look. Against Terronn Millett, Gatti worked behind his jab and moved his feet and head, peppering Millett with those big, powerful shots that give Gatti a chance against anybody.

I love this new, improved Gatti. He and McGirt are the best combination since Frank Sinatra teamed up with Count Basie.

Meanwhile, Millett took on Gatti's old persona—all guts, no thinking. You can't stay in range of a powerpuncher like Gatti with your gloves down at your waist. What did Millett expect to happen?

Too many guys try to pretend they're Muhammad Ali. Nice dream. But there's only been one Ali. Everybody else should keep their hands up.

COME HOME, ABC: I wrote the following message to Howard Katz, who, the last I looked, was ABC's sports president:

Dear Howard Katz:

ABC's ***Wide World Of Sports*** *used to be synonymous with the sport of boxing. But you haven't televised any boxing this entire century. What's the deal here? Can't you stick just a little boxing in your lineup? In between the golf and figure skating, for instance?*

Just to inch back into the sport, maybe you could have Tiger Woods go three rounds against Michelle Kwan. I eagerly await your reply.

Your humble boxing fan,

Ivan Goldman

I haven't heard back from Katz, but I'm sure he'll want to lay out the new boxing schedule first. He may be encountering resistance from Woods, who won't do anything for less than eight figures.

STUPID QUESTION: "... I feel very good coming into this fight. I have been taking care of myself ..." Blah, blah, blah.

That was a statement from DeMarcus "Chop Chop" Corley or Ener Julio before the two junior welters fought in Miami. It doesn't really matter which one said it. It's the standard press conference answer when a reporter, as one always does, asks the fighters how they feel going into the fight.

Just once, I'd like to hear a fighter reply with something honest, like, "I feel lousy. Making weight is practically killing me, I caught a cold three days ago, I woke up this morning with a stiff neck, and I think I have two busted knuckles on my right hand. Maybe I can go six or seven rounds. But 10? Forget about it."

Wouldn't that be refreshing?

Then there's the double stupid question: "What's your strategy going to be in this fight?"

Sure, like he's really going to divulge this with his opponent listening.

But let's pretend the fighter will lay out the truth. This would be an honest answer for some guys:

"I'm going to run like hell. When I'm too tired to get away, I'll clinch. Whenever he lands one on the belt line, I'll pretend he disintegrated both my testicles. If I see a chance, I'll shoot a forearm into his nose. I've been practicing."

HARD KNOCKS: A medical study in Chicago found that people who suffer concussions and other head injuries in early adulthood are more likely than other people to be afflicted with depression.

The new findings suggest that the risk persists even 50 years later. The study involved 1,718 veterans hospitalized for various ailments during World War II and questioned 50 years later. Details of the study were reported in January's *Archives Of General Psychiatry*.

LAST WORD: From good friend and determined boxing publicist John Beyrooty came some e-mailed propaganda on the Klitschko brothers that included the following sentence:

"So with a little more spare time than usual, Wladimir, the younger of the brothers, is doing what he likes to do best: Reach out to the world and try to make a difference."

Beyrooty should decide whether he is selling this guy as a heavyweight or entering him in the Miss America contest. ■

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Are these guys fighters or beauty pageant contestants?

BEING THERE

CHAMP'S GYM

By Joe Santoliquito, Photos by George Tahinos

Champ's Gym really isn't the type of place you have to visit to experience. You've seen it hundreds of times in old black-and-white boxing movies.

The fabled gym is located in a blighted area of North Philadelphia, and can be difficult to find. But once the pungent smell wafts through the weathered wooden door and stings you in the nose like a punch, you know then that you've arrived at Champ's. It's a dingy hole-in-the-wall, located in between two car repair shops, and it serves as the construction site for some of Philly's best fighters.

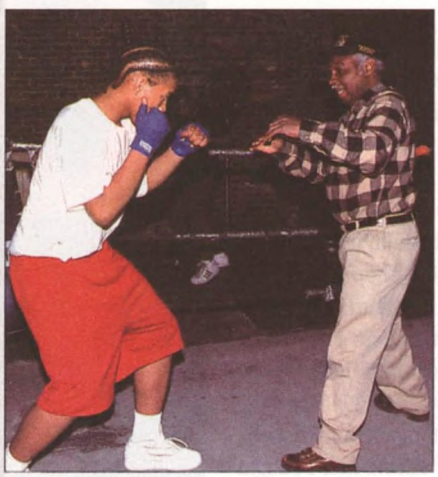
Portal to the past

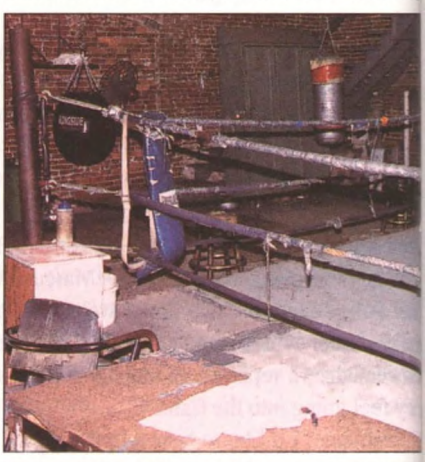
It doesn't get any more grimy than Champ's. The place is a living anachronism, the antithesis of today's modern gyms that are full of aerobicized bunnies in spandex and hip dudes flexing in mirrors, trying to get their attention.

No, Champ's is a place for fighters serious about training. If you go there with the intention of looking buff, you'd better think about going somewhere else. And though Champ's is located in one of the rougher areas of Philly, the gym is a safe haven for kids and anyone training there.

"It's an old-school, basement-like gym that's in the 'hood, the heart of North Philly, and no one is gonna mess with you there," said junior welterweight contende Ivan Robinson, who's one of a handful o top-notch pros who train at Champ's. "Yo may see a rat, a crippled dog limp by, yo see North Philly thugs playing their ra music, because it's a place where there' no playin' around. You have to be tough t work out at Champ's. If you're not tough you won't last in there very long, or th place will make you tough real fast."

Champ's' history of tough guy who've trained there includes forme heavyweight kings Joe Frazier and Sonn Liston, former light heavyweight cham Harold Johnson, and former middleweigh contender Bennie Briscoe, who actuall


Trainer Al Fennell schools Donte Wright


One looks at Champ's tells you why Philly fighters are tough

IF YOU GO

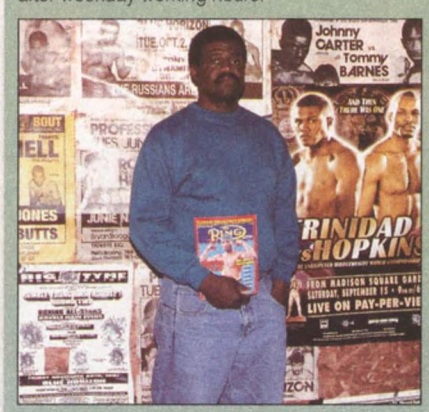
Location: 2617 W. Huntingdon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19140; phone: 215-225-7967.

Directions: By car, take I-76 and get off at the Lincoln Drive exit. Take the Ridge Avenue East exit off Lincoln Drive, and continue on to Ridge, which turns into Ridge Avenue South. Take a left onto Lehigh Avenue, then go about a mile and make a right onto 26th Street. Take 26th Street for a half-mile and take a right onto Huntingdon Avenue. The gym is located on the right, in between two car shops and across the street from an open field.

Membership: $35 monthly fee for all facilities; $10-$15 per day. For kids, there is a $25 registration fee, then $10 monthly after that. Children must also have permission from their parents. Open 4 p.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturdays from 12 p.m.-3 p.m.

Who to look out for: Bernard Hopkins frequently trains at Champ's. Hopkins is always approachable to fans and aspiring pros, but when fight time nears, the middleweight king will often place a two-by-four across the inside of the door and wall himself in Champ's with trainer Bouie Fisher at around noon. You can also see former heavyweight champ Hasim Rahman working out at Champ's, under new trainer Fisher.

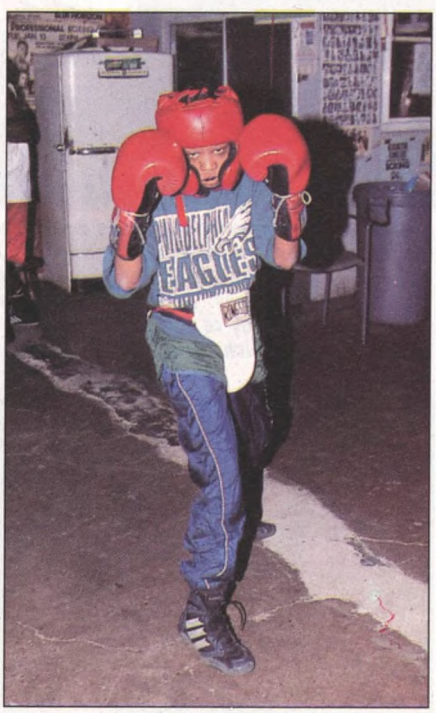
Advice to greenhorns: Champ's is no place for autograph hounds or athletes looking to improve their flex-appeal. For fighters serious about training, it's good to arrive between 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. if you plan to beat the crowd and get a good workout in. The place usually fills with about 60 or 70 fighters of various ages after weekday working hours.



Former pro Dwight Triplett runs Champ's

Crunch time for Vienna Williams, with an assist from Chris Hall

Champ's honors Philadelphia's fighting legacy



Is Anthony Allen the next Bennie Briscoe?

lives around the corner from Champ's.

The gym, which features an archway dedicated to the great trainers and fighters who have come from Philadelphia, was christened "Champ's" in the late-1950s by Pat Oliveri, who managed Johnson, but is better known in Philadelphia as the founder of the popular Pat's Steaks. The current address is the gym's fifth location, and it's been there since the early-'90s. Champ's is run by former fighter Dwight Triplett, who's been the overseer since '97.

"A lot of people come from out of town, because they know they'll get work here," Triplett said. "This is the best place in the city to get work. We still get six or seven top pro fighters, but most of it is young kids. They get their schoolin' at Champ's, then they move on, but they always seem to come back."

The décor may be drab, with its concrete floors and old fight posters adorning the brick walls, but it's a place a lot of fighters are proud to call home. ■

CAMERA CLICKS

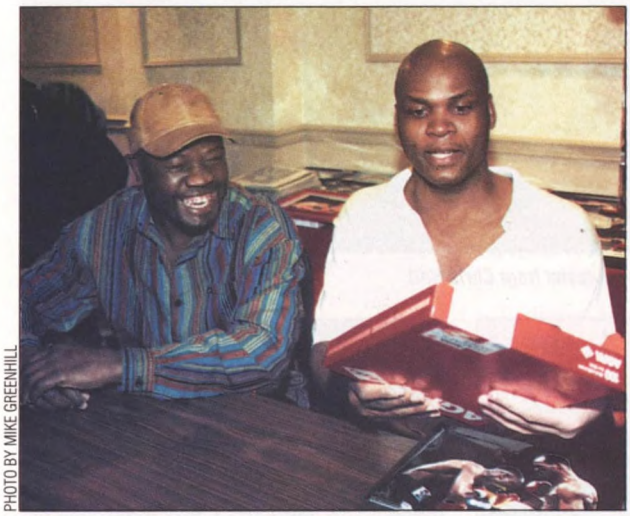


PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Best friends and great rivals Simon Brown and Maurice Blocker, two of the finest welterweights of the last 20 years, recently made a little money together again at an autograph show in Secaucus, New Jersey. Based on their facial expressions, it's safe to assume they're looking at a photo from their classic March '91 fight, which Brown won via 10th-round knockout.

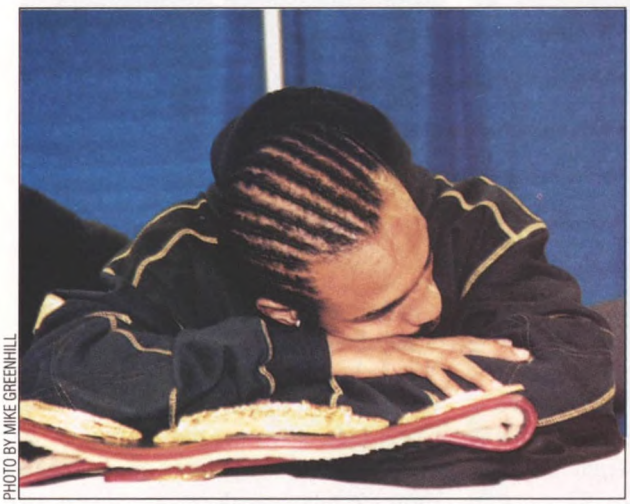


PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Junior welterweight bomber Randall Bailey usually puts his opponents to sleep, but sometimes Bailey needs a nap, too, so he took one at the press conference following his win over Demetrio Ceballos. And, no, it wasn't because John Ruiz and Evander Holyfield were fighting.

Lucia Rijker has found the ultimate steward to attend to her languishing box ing career, having recently hired Hall of Famer Emanuel Steward as he manager. The star of Rollerball *finally got the ball rolling on her boxin career again, as she returned in February from a 27-month absence from th ring and stopped Carla Witherspoon in four rounds.*

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Saint Bernard: Fresh off a physical battle with Carl Daniels and a verbal war with Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins showed his philanthropic side at the postfight press conference on February 2 in Reading, Pennsylvania. The middleweight champ presented Wanda Little, the widow of former super middleweight titleholder and Reading hero Steve Little, with a bouquet of flowers and a check for $150,000 to help out her and her six children.

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Middleweight great Joey Giardello insists the movie The Hurricane *did a hatchet job on his fight with Rubin Carter, but that hasn't stopped him from volunteering for another "Hatchet" job—posing for a photo with Charles "The Hatchet" Brewer. The two titlists from Philadelphia recently got together at a* Friday Night Fights *card at the Avenue of the Arts Palace in downtown Philly.*

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

If you're looking for fighters with tremendous physical talent and equally tremendous attention-deficit problems, look no farther than these two, junior welterweight contender Zab Judah and junior middle contender Kassim Ouma. The young fighters have more in common than just their speed, power, and lack of concentration; they're also both trained by Zab's dad, Yoel Judah. We don't envy Yoel, trying to get these guys to listen.

PHOTO BY GEORGE TAHINOS

It's "Showtime"! Not everyone gets their picture in The Ring *at the age of 13, but Philadelphia's Jamie "Showtime" Stafford isn't your average aspiring amateur fighter. He played the role of the young Muhammad Ali in the 1999 ABC telemovie* The Greatest, *setting the stage for another, slightly more famous Philadelphian to step into the role of Ali a couple of years later.*

NOSTALGIA CORNER

Long before New Edition or The Backstreet Boys came along, future Hall of Famers Jimmy Carter and Kid Gavilan gave the "boy band" thing a shot, dancing and drumming their way to the top of the charts—or at least to the top of their divisions. In June '53, when this photo was taken, Carter was the world lightweight champion, and Gavilan was the world welterweight king.

Back Issues of

Add to your RING collection by ordering from our limited supply of back issues. Single issues are $5 each. Order by the year and save up to 30%. Listed prices include postage and handling. Supplies are limited. To assure fulfillment order today.

March 1982 (100-Page Special): Sanchez & Leonard: Fighters Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awrds, Chandler gatefold, 1981 in review, boxing calendar, powers-that-be.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

March 1983 (108-Page Special): Larry Holmes—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Donald Curry, Milton McCrory, Fight, Upset, Comeback, and Prospect of the Year.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Boxing Writer's Hall of Fame (Monzon, Foster, Burley), second generation fighters, Stanley Ketchel.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

June 1983: What Now For Ray Mancini? Plus: Lupe Pintor, Paddy Flood, Bonecrusher Smith, Charlie Brown, Frazier-Broad, Chang-Zapata, Holmes-Teofilo Stevenson, Tony Ayala, Jersey Joe Walcott.

Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One "Mas" Time. Plus: Larry Holmes, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle, Duran-Moore, Fražier-Bugner, Resto-Collins, Escalera-Hatcher.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Marvib Hagler, Roberto Duran, Rosario-Davis, Pryor-Furlano.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, Pinklon Thomas, Julian Jackson.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Thomas Hearns—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Annual ratings, Fight, Upset, Round, Comeback, and Prospect of the Year.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Curry-McCrory, Kenny Lane, Vincent Pettway, *Rocky IV*.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & MIke Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. P... Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Mee... Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterwe... tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavywe... finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... A The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, H... Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Bloo... Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hea... Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAu... Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, eli... matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cer... Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: W... Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Brit... Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 w... champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezz... Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jo... Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Sm... Joey Gamache.

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. P... Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Grazia... Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chav... Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: What Now? Boxing Without Mike Ty... Plus: Buck Smith, Liston-Foreman, Billy Graha... Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder, Hilario Zapata, Tom... Tiberi, Benny Lynch, Tony DeMarco, Tyson center... (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Sh... Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Don... fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes ... See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: I... Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Co... Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mand... Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But Wha... He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby C... Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbo... Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robin... (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavywei... Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Ke... Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Tay... Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max B... (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavywei... Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chand... Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nat... Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (col... Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Bro... Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jon... Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulu... Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer M... Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Len... Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kan... Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color...

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. P... "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Mi... East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top ... Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title... He Good Enough *Now?* Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez p... view, Lennox Lewis, THE RING Poll, Freddie Pendleton...

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Cha... Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punche... Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the F... Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Nov. 1993: Julio Cesar Chavez: He Crushed Haug... ... He Annihilated Alli ... Is Pernell Whitaker Ne... Plus: Marvin Hagler, Evander Holyfield, John-Ju... Molina, Madison Square Garden, bizarre train... methods.

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Ye... Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Gar... Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foste...

May 1994: Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Hill & Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If: Dempsey vs. Wills.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.

July 1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Oct. 1995 (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Dec. 1995: Mike Tyson (vs. Peter McNeeley): The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Morrison-Lewis preview, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, 10 best chins.

Winter 1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Jan. 1996: King Bruno! A Hero Always ... A Winner At Last. Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, Oscar De La Hoya, Chris Eubank, Eddie Perkins, who's hot/who's not.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

May 1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

Jan. 1997: Riddick's Bowe's Promise: "This Time I'm Whipping Golota's Ass!" Plus: David Reid, Pernell Whitaker, Dick Tiger, Juan LaPorte.

May 1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

July 1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, THE RING's 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

Oct. 1997: Bang! Naseem Hamed Takes Aim At America. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Phillips-Tszyu, Saman Sorjaturong, Bobby Dykes.

Nov. 1997: Is Mike Tyson Finished? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, De La Hoya-Camacho preview, Frankie Conley, Hall of Fame, gloves,

Holiday 1997: Roy Jones: When He's Motivated, He's Unstoppable—Got That, Evander? Plus: Julio Cesar Green, Sugar Shane Mosley, boxers' day jobs, Tyson's mentor, Kid Lavigne.

Jan. 1998: Give This Man His Due! If You Can't Respect Oscar ... You Can't Respect Anyone! Plus: Sanchez-Mayweather, Morales-Zaragoza, Lucia Rijker, Marvin Johnson, characters.

Feb. 1998: Welter-Skelter! The Hottest Division In Boxing. Plus: Lewis-Golota, Olympic update, Art Shires, boxing I.Q.

March 1998 (92-Page Special): Into The Millennium With The Real Deal: THE RING's Timeline For Evander Holyfield. Plus: Hernandez-Hernandez, Briggs-Foreman, 10 champs recall "The Day I Won The Title," Johnny Thompson.

April 1998: Evander Holyfield: THE RING'S Fighter Of The Year (Again!). Plus: Yory Boy Campas, Mullings-Norris, Pinkey Mitchell, Holyfield Q & A, Hamed-Kelley, Oscar De La Hoya.

May 1998: Wrestling With His Reinstatement: Is Tyson Biting The Hand That Feeds Him? Plus: Lewis-Briggs preview, Michael Grant, Manfredy-Gatti, Ski Goldstein, Dan Donnelly.

June 1998 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Tyson-King, David Reid, Bernard Hopkins, Ken Norton.

July 1998: Holyfield ... Tapia ... Hamed ... Jones ... Trinidad ... De La Hoya: Who Will Be The First To Fall? Plus: Magic Johnson, Chavez-Gonzalez & Lopez-Alvarez, underappreciated boxers.

Aug. 1998: Lennox Lewis: No Holyfield, No Glory. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Pat & Mike McMurtry, Chris Byrd, unbreakable records, contenders & pretenders.

Sept. 1998 (92-Page Special): This Man's Not Unbeatable! Five Top Trainers Reveal How To Solve The Hamed Puzzle. Plus: John Tate, Freddie Norwood, Andrew Golota, Roy Jones, 12 greatest finishes.

Oct. 1998: Really Hard Punch ... Really Soft Lips: Oscar Makes Legs Quiver In And Out Of The Ring. Plus: Hector Camacho Jr., Mayweather-Hernandez preview, *Tuesday Night Fights.*

Jan. 1999: Sugar Shane Mosley: The Sweet Tradition Continues. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Erik Morales, Ray "Windmill" White.

Feb. 1999: 1999! It's Gonna Be A Great Year For Boxing. Plus: Mike Tyson, Foreman-Holmes, David Reid, Eric Morel, Richie Mitchell, quitters.

March 1999: De La Hoya vs. Quartey: Does Bazooka Have The Weapons To Shoot Down Oscar? Plus: Sugar Shane Mosley, Lopez-Alvarez II, Roy Jones, Coley Wallace.

April 1999 (92-Page Special): Fighter Of The Year: Floyd Mayweather Jr.: "He's So Good, It's Scary!" Plus: Fernando Vargas, James Page, Luisito Espinosa, Robinson-Gatti II, Archie Moore, Carlos Oritz, 1998 diary.

May 1999: Is It All Over For Tyson? Plus: Terry Norris, Vinny Pazienza, Jesus Pimental, stoppages, mandatories.

June 1999: The Fans Have Spoken: Results Of *The Ring* Readers' Poll. Plus: Michael Grant, De La Hoya-Quartey, Antwun Echols, Ted Lowry.

July 1999 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Holyfield-Lewis, Felix Trinidad, Stevie Johnston, Emile Griffith, Phil Zwick.

Aug. 1999: Candidates For Greatness: Can Anyone Fill The Heavyweight Void? Plus: Tim Austin, Naseem Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Max Scmheling, Holyfield-Lewis.

Sept. 1999: Taking Stock In The Fight Game: Who's Hot, Who's Not. Plus: Tony Ayala, Keith Holmes, Denny & Phil Moyer, scoring.

Oct. 1999 (92-Page Special): Felix & Oscar Go To War! Who's Going To Prevail In The Welter Shootout? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Harry Simon, Omar Sheika, Al Andrews, 20 greatest fighters of 20th century.

Dec. 1999: Insiders' Analysis: Can Roy Jones Chop Down The Best Heavyweights? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, David Reid, David Tua, Carmen Basilio, Johnny Summerlin.

Holiday 1999 (92-Page Special): Heavyweight Showdowns! Holyfield vs. Lewis II, Grant vs. Golota. Plus: Francois Botha, Arturo Gatti, Michael Carbajal, Rocky Marciano, Lou Filippo.

Jan. 2000: What Does Trinidad's Victory Over Oscar Mean? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Paul Spadafora, Ralph Dupas, boxing media.

March 2000: Lennox Lewis: The Champ For The Millennium ... Or Just For The Moment? Plus: Oleg Maskaev, Main Events, Derrick Jefferson, Jerry Buss, IBF scandal.

April 2000 (92-Page Special): Paulie Ayala—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Grant-Golota, Stephan Johnson, Gaspar Ortega, Kitten Hayward, writers' favorite fights.

May 2000: Lennox Lewis Will Quit ... Or Get Knocked Out, By Michael Grant. Plus: Roy Jones, Quartey-Vargas preview, Garth Panter, best chins, boxing movies.

June 2000: The Honors Keep Coming! Lenox Lewis Receives The Undisputed *Ring* Belt. Plus: Roy Jones, Vernon Forrest, Teddy Atlas, Mike Tyson, Don Fullmer.

July 2000 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Zab Judah, Oscar De La Hoya, Barrera-Morales, Ken Buchanan, Beau Jack, Eric Bottjer.

Aug. 2000: Hamed! And The Men Who Want To Kick His Naz! Plus: David Reid, James Prince, Anthony Fletcher, Micky Ward, final beatings, white hopes.

Sept. 2000: A New Look At Lennox Lewis: Is He An All-Time Great? Plus: Winky Wright, Michael Moorer, De La Hoya & Vargas, Eddie McGoorty.

Oct. 2000 (92-Page Special): Move Up Or Shut Up! We're Sick Of Roy Jones' Heavyweight Tease. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Tapia & Romero, Hasim Rahman, Dwight Qawi, Al Palzer, fight films, best refs.

(ALL-COLOR BEGINNING WITH THE DECEMBER 2000 ISSUE)

Dec. 2000: The Hell With Tyson—Tua Is The Man Who Could Beat Lewis. Plus: Mike Tyson, Felix Trinidad, Wladimir Klitschko, Trilla in Manila, U.S. vs. World, Toxey Hall.

Jan. 2001 (108-Page Extra): Trinidad's Destiny: Jones Is On His Mind ... But Vargas Is In His Face! Plus: Naseem Hamed, Tszyu-Judah, Evander Holyfield, Willie Bean, 20 greatest middleweights.

Feb. 2001: It's Not Over For Oscar: *The Ring's* Five-Step Recovery Plan. Plus: Bob Arum, Dingaan Thobela, Hernandez brothers, U.S. Olympic team, future pound-for-pounders.

March 2001 (108-Page Extra): Tyson! Forget About Retirement ... A Title Shot Awaits! Plus: Ayala-Tapia II, Audley Harrison, Chris Byrd, Kirk Johnson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Boone Kirkman, 12 most exciting rounds.

April 2001: A New Beginning ... A New Middle: Felix Trinidad Is Ready To Conquer Another Division! Plus: Shane Mosley, Lennox Lewis, Paul Andrews, boxing business.

May 2001 (108-Page Extra): Felix Trinidad—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, Barrera-Hamed preview, Bernard Hopkins, Joey Archer.

June 2001: Pretty Boy Floyd: Superstar Or Superbrat? Plus: Lewis vs. greats, 2000 Olympians, Henry Hall, rematches we'd like to see.

July 2001 (108-Page Extra): The State Of The Game. Plus: Zab Judah, John Ruiz, Andrew Lewis, Mark Johnson, British boxing.

Aug. 2001: Rocking The World! What Rahman's Victory Means To Boxing. Plus: Barrera-Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Mount Whitaker, *Friday Night Fights.*

Sept. 2001 (108-Page Extra): Exclusive Ring Interview—Hasim Rahman: "Nobody's Taking My Titles!" Plus: 20 all-time greatest lightweights, Pat Valentino, Hopkins & King, Jones & Arum.

Oct. 2001: Trinidad vs. Hopkins: Middleweight Unification Superfight Analysis & Predictions. Plus: Emanuel Steward, Joe Calzaghe, Ali's opponents, Rahman & King.

Nov. 2001 (108-Page Extra): *The Ring* 100: Ranking The Best Fighters In The World. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Jesus Chavez, Hall of Fame (Sugar Ramos, Ismael Laguna), Luther Rawlings, 15-rounders.

Dec. 2001: The Rock Promises Another Shock! "I'm Gonna Knock Lennox Out Again!" Plus: David Reid, Jones-Gonzalez, McCline-Grant, Jackie Graves, ring deaths.

Jan. 2002 (108-Page Extra): Oscar Feeds His Critics: Did He Chicken Out Against Vargas? Plus: Vladimir Klitschko, Chris Byrd, 20 greatest featherweights, "Caveman" Bob Moha.

Feb. 2002: How I Shocked The World, By Bernard Hopkins. Plus: Marco Antonio Barrera, Fernando Vargas, Francisco Bojado, boxers and national crises.

March 2002 (108-Page Extra): Is Tyson Ready To Regain The Title? Plus: Kostya Tszyu, Floyd Mayweather, Bernard Hopkins, Eddie Futch, fitness, ahead for 2002.

April 2002: Time For Tyson: The Final Step In Lewis' Legacy. Plus: Muhammad Ali, Barrera-Morales II preview, Ron Stander, THE RING's championship policy.

May 2002 (108-Page Extra): Bernard Hopkins—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, Holyfield-Ruiz III, 2000 Olympians, Eric Harding, "Silent" Hairston.

June 2002: Lennox Lewis: I'll End The Tyson "Freak Show!": Plus: Forrest-Mosley, Freitas-Casamayor, De La Hoya & Vargas, Hagler & Leonard.

☐ Mar/82 ☐ Feb/83 ☐ Mar/83 ☐ Apr/83 ☐ May/83 ☐ Jun/83 ☐ Aug/83 ☐ Nov/83 **All 7 $28**

☐ Feb/84 ☐ Jun/84 ☐ Jul/84 ☐ Aug/84 ☐ Sep/84 ☐ Oct/84 ☐ Dec/84 **All 7 $28**

☐ Jan/85 ☐ Feb/85 ☐ Mar/85 ☐ Apr/85 ☐ May/85 ☐ Jun/85 ☐ Aug/85 ☐ Oct/85 ☐ Nov/85 ☐ Dec/85 **All 10 $37**

☐ Jan/86 ☐ Feb/86 ☐ Mar/86 ☐ Apr/86 ☐ May/86 ☐ Jun/86 ☐ Jul/86 ☐ Aug/86 ☐ Sep/86 ☐ Dec/86 **All 10 $37**

☐ Apr/87 ☐ May/87 ☐ Jun/87 ☐ Jul/87 ☐ Aug/87 ☐ Sep/87 ☐ Nov/87 ☐ Dec/87 **All 8 $31**

☐ Jan/88 ☐ Feb/88 ☐ Apr/88 ☐ May/88 ☐ Sep/88 ☐ Oct/88 ☐ Nov/88 **All 7 $28**

☐ Jan/89 ☐ Feb/89 ☐ Mar/89 ☐ May/89 **All 4 $18**

☐ Jan/90 ☐ Feb/90 ☐ Mar/90 ☐ Apr/90 ☐ May/90 ☐ Jun/90 ☐ Jul/90 ☐ Aug/90 ☐ Oct/90 ☐ Nov/90 ☐ Dec/90

All 11 $40

☐ Jan/91 ☐ Mar/91 ☐ Apr/91 ☐ Jun/91 ☐ Jul/91 ☐ Aug/91 ☐ Oct/91 ☐ Dec/91 **All 8 $31**

☐ Jan/92 ☐ May/92 ☐ Jun/92 ☐ Jul/92 ☐ Sep/92 ☐ Oct/92 ☐ Nov/92 **All 7 $28**

☐ Feb/93 ☐ Mar/93 ☐ Apr/93 ☐ May/93 ☐ Aug/93 ☐ Nov/93 **All 6 $25.**

☐ Apr/94 ☐ May/94 ☐ Aug/94 ☐ Oct/94 ☐ Dec/94 **All 5 $22**

☐ Jan/95 ☐ May/95 ☐ Jun/95 ☐ Jul/95 ☐ Oct/95

☐ Dec/95 ☐ Wint/95 **All 7 $28**

☐ Jan/96 ☐ Feb/96 ☐ May/96 ☐ Sep/96 ☐ Nov/96 ☐ Dec/96 **All 6 $25**

☐ Jan/97 ☐ May/97 ☐ Jun/97 ☐ Jul/97 ☐ Oct/97 ☐ Nov/97 **All 6 $25**

☐ Jan/98 n☐ Feb/98 ☐ Mar/98 ☐ Apr/98 ☐ May/98 ☐ Jun/98 ☐ Jul/98 ☐ Aug/98 ☐ Sep/98 ☐ Oct/98

☐ Nov/98 **All 11 $40**

☐ Jan/99 ☐ Feb/99 ☐ Mar/99 ☐ Apr/99 ☐ May/99 ☐ Jun/99 ☐ Jul/99 ☐ Aug/99 ☐ Sep/99 ☐ Oct/99 ☐ Dec/99 ☐ Hol/99 **All 12 $43**

☐ Jan/00 ☐ Mar/00 ☐ Apr/00 ☐ May/00 ☐ Jun/00 ☐ Jul/00 ☐ Aug/00 ☐ Sep/00 ☐ Oct/00 ☐ Dec/00 **All 10 $37**

☐ Jan/01 ☐ Feb/01 ☐ Mar/01 ☐ Apr/01 ☐ May/01 ☐ Jun/01 ☐ Jul/01 ☐ Aug/01 ☐ Sep/01 ☐ Oct/01 ☐ Nov/01 ☐ Dec/01 **All 12 $43**

☐ Jan/02 ☐ Feb/02 ☐ Mar/02 ☐ Apr/02 ☐ May/02 ☐ Jun/02 **All 6 $25**

In case of sellout, indicate two substitute choices: _____ _____

Please send me the back issues I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum). Send To:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 EACH

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: __/__ MO/YR

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

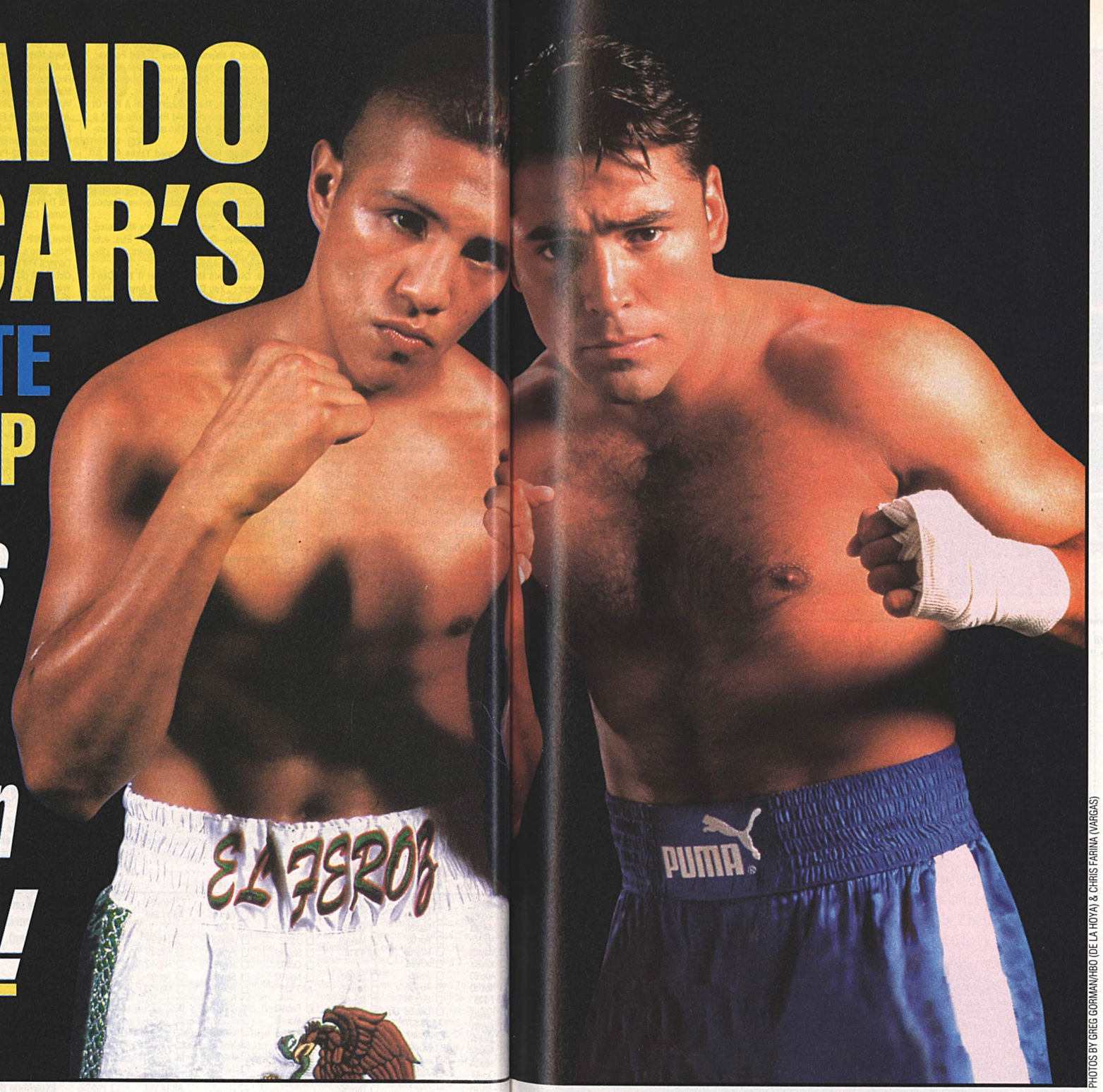
State _____ Zip _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent via surface mail, and $3.00 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5905/02-28

FERNANDO & OSCAR'S "LOVE"-HATE RELATIONSHIP

All Emotions Will Be Put In Motion On May 4!



PHOTOS BY GREG GORMAN/HBO (DE LA HOYA) & CHRIS FARINA (VARGAS)

By Ivan Goldman

It's important to be careful what you wish for; you might get it. Take Fernando Vargas. He aimed his entire career, practically his life, at getting Oscar De La Hoya in the ring and destroying him. On May 4, at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, he will get his chance.

The way Vargas shaped his career, everything rests on this fight. If he loses to his archenemy, it's as though nothing else he's done or will ever do can matter. With stakes that high, there is pressure, the kind that peels back the layers of a man and reveals what's inside him.

The almost spiritual intensity of Vargas' loathing has had its effect on De La Hoya, who felt it for years, could no longer ignore it, and now plans to beat up this man who sniped at him so pitilessly for so long.

As De La Hoya scored one victory after another, Vargas would tell everyone why he was unimpressed. According to Vargas the opponents were too little, too old, had no legs, no punch, no defense, no nada. Each man who lost to De La Hoya miraculously turned to dust in the mind of Vargas.

And after each Vargas outing, Vargas would challenge De La Hoya, insulting his manhood, ridiculing him, picking at the scab of his obsession.

Defeat on May 4 would be ghastly to either of them, unimaginable even. Yet deep down, they both imagine it. And then train harder. Don't look for either fighter to be out of shape for this one. The danger is that one or both will overtrain, leaving too much energy in the gym.

"I hate him," De La Hoya said of Vargas. And that's practically pleasant compared to something else he said.

"He's in love with me," Oscar said. "Why else would he talk about me so much?"

You'd have to think awfully hard to come up with a nastier insult to a macho Hispanic like Vargas. De La Hoya, who never talks trash before a fight, showed he sure knows how when he wants to.

Confronted with such remarks at their kickoff news conference, the usually glib Vargas had no answer. Speechless, he just pushed his nemesis away.

The big question is whether Vargas will have an answer to Oscar's quicker fists when they meet in "Bad Blood," the aptly named title of this monumental showdown between seething enemies.

The issues of drama, hatred, pride, and fear so overwhelm this match that they obliterate the usual comparisons of one fighter versus another.

Instead of looking at who has the advantage in reach or speed or strength, it may be wiser to look inside their souls. Which of these two fighters, when his chips are all out there, can allow himself to lose? Whose will is stronger?

"Vargas is so hostile and so hateful against this guy that he's going to make a mistake," predicted matchmaker Jerry Bilderrain. "He's going to make a lot of mistakes because of his hate. Vargas' craziness will be his downfall."

The experienced Bilderrain makes his living in Southern California, where Vargas and De La Hoya both grew up. He's been watching them since they were boys. He watched Southern Californian Shane Mosley with the same intensity—and was one of the lonely voices out there predicting Vernon Forrest would beat him.

But this time Bilderrain holds the majority opinion. For a variety of reasons, De La Hoya is a heavy favorite among experts. In this particular fight, Vargas may be too intense for his own good, particularly since De La Hoya has a clear edge in big-fight experience. Bilderrain thinks Vargas will try to jump on De La Hoya early, and will pay for it.

The reason many people are picking De La Hoya to win his grudge match with Vargas is Vargas' brutal loss to Felix Trinidad in December 200 (pictured). Ironically, "Tito" holds wins over both "El Feroz" and "The Golden Boy," but his victory over Vargas was far more convincing.

De La Hoya long had critics who said he moved his career too slowly, that he picked his fights too carefully, against has-beens or opponents who were fighting in the wrong weight division. But by the time De La Hoya moved to welterweight, it became impossible to make that charge and be taken seriously. Oscar, 29, has fought just about everybody.

After disposing of the top lightweights, he moved up in weight and stopped, among others, Oba Carr, Wilfredo Rivera, and Julio Cesar Chavez (twice). Among those he decisioned were Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Pernell Whitaker, and Ike Quartey. He's never been knocked out. He lost a close, disputed decision to Felix Trinidad and was decisioned by Mosley, the only fighter to beat him decisively in 36 fights.

Vargas, 24, stopped the heavy-handed Yory Boy Campas, won a disputed decision over the talented, underrated Winky Wright, decisioned Ike Quartey, and was stopped by Trinidad in the 12th round after suffering a prolonged, vicious beating.

Vargas' record is impressive, but not

In his only prior bout as a junior middleweight, De La Hoya topped Francisco Castillejo for the WB 154-pound belt. And while he outpointed the Spaniard by a wide margin, De La Hoya didn't sho the punching power he'd displayed at lighter weights.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Both De La Hoya and Vargas hold wins over talented Ike Quartey, but Vargas dominated the former WBA welter boss to a greater degree than De La Hoya did. Of course, Oscar would probably claim he'd already taken all the fight out of Quartey before Vargas got to him.

comparable to De La Hoya's. What distinguished Vargas early on was his willingness to plunge into big fights. Less than a week after turning 21, he lifted the IBF title off Campas.

Vargas has always been a junior middleweight. He's husky—thicker and more solid than De La Hoya, who entered the pros at 130 pounds.

Vargas does everything well. He hits hard, moves well, slips, counters, can earn his living inside or at a distance. And he's tough. But Vargas, a terrific fighter, never had the look of an unbeatable fighter. He was never quite as impressive as De La Hoya, who throws textbook punches and is full of surprises. De La Hoya owns the better chin. Both are excellent finishers, and if either of them gets his opponent in trouble, look out.

De La Hoya always had blazing, rarified speed. He throws the kind of punches the other guy can't see coming. In the lighter divisions, his punching was too strong for everyone. But as he moved up in weight, his power became less overwhelming.

De La Hoya has fought 13 times as a welter or super welter, and stopped seven of those opponents. His overall record is 34-2 (27). Vargas is 22-1 (20) against less formidable opposition.

Both had distinguished amateur careers, Oscar's capped with a gold medal at the '92 Olympics in Barcelona. Vargas competed in the '96 Olympics and failed to medal.

Vargas and De La Hoya both stepped straight into big pro contracts and never had to work a day job. They've both made millions, but De La Hoya, a crossover celebrity, has made many more millions. He's earned more than any other non-heavyweight in the history of the sport and gets more endorsement money than any other boxer this side of George Foreman.

Last year Vargas pleaded no contest to conspiracy to commit assault in connection with a 1999 argument with another man over the favors of a woman. This killed his chances of ever scoring meaningful endorsements, no matter what he accomplishes in the ring.

Sentenced to 90 days of detention, he

(Continued on page 32)

THE ONLY BOXING EQUIPMENT TOUGHER THAN ITS NAME

TUF-WEAR®
WWW.TUFWEAR.COM
EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH
TITLE BOXING
1-800-999-1213
Call for your *free* TITLE Boxing Catalog that includes the entire Tuf-Wear Line

De La Hoya-Vargas

(Continued from page 31)

was wearing a monitoring ankle bracelet, courtesy of jail authorities, when the fight was announced.

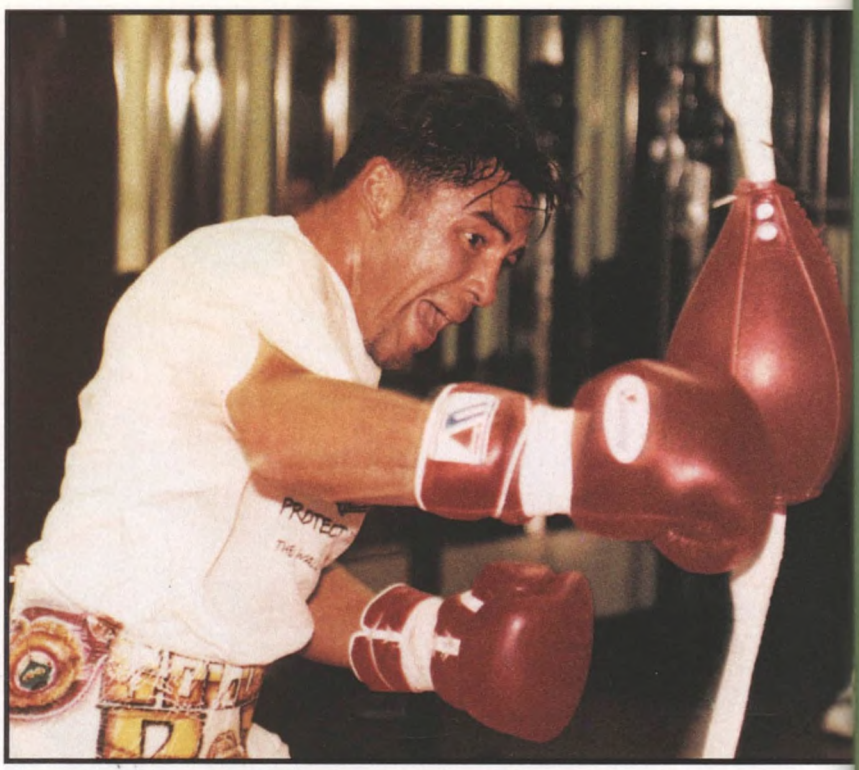
Through his co-manager Shelly Finkel, Vargas became friends with Mike Tyson and Zab Judah, also associated with Finkel. De La Hoya asserts Vargas "represents the dark side of boxing."

Vargas contends De La Hoya is a phony, that somehow he's not a "true Mexican." But if being a true Mexican-American demands growing up without luxuries, De La Hoya, who scratched his way up from the East L.A. barrio, meets the test. In his wallet, he carries a food stamp from the old days.

De La Hoya, who has often said he will retire at 30, is winding down his career. But he plans to shut up Vargas before moving on.

Oscar's current trainer, Floyd Mayweather Sr., favors a more defensive style. It's too early to tell whether Mayweather is a plus or a minus.

Jesus Rivero, another defensive-minded trainer, prepared Oscar to fight Whitaker. Afterward, De La Hoya decided Rivero's strategy fit him badly and fired him.



These guys hate each other so much there is no danger of either De La Hoya (above) or Vargas (belo not being in great shape for their May 4 showdown. Let's just hope neither leaves their fight in the gym

Arum calls Mayweather "the new Eddie Futch." De La Hoya's praise for him is so enthusiastic it's embarrassing. But he'd been equally enthusiastic over Rivero.

In Oscar's last outing, with Mayweather in the corner, Spaniard Francisco Castillejo took him the distance. De La Hoya looked tentative, not the dominating fighter who easily blew away tough guys like Rafa Ruelas and Jesse James Leija.

Eduardo Garcia has been Vargas' chi trainer from the beginning. They made fine team—until Vargas got in trouble.

Garcia, Nevada referee Jay Nady, a the other Nevada officials at ringside l Vargas take a terrible beating fro Trinidad until Nady finally stopped it the 12th round. Some fighters never he from such a punishing loss.

But against Trinidad, Vargas proved t immensity of his heart. After going do from a crushing hook in the first round, recovered well enough to knock do Trinidad in the fourth. In fact, had Trinid not slammed him immediately afterwa with a clearly intentional low blow, Varg might have won the fight.

De La Hoya, evidently out of gas, r from Trinidad during the last four roun of their fight. But many believe he was far ahead he deserved the decision anyw

It's one of many things Vargas and D La Hoya have in common—losing contr versially to Trinidad. But whatever the similarities, don't look for these guys kiss and make up when it's over.

Their hatred is reality, not a fairy tale.

Ivan Goldman is THE RING's We Coast correspondent.

PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

DON'T GAMBLE ON SPORTS INVEST IN IT!

www.mariowins.com

#1 RATED HANDICAPPING SERVICE IN AMERICA, MAKE A FORTUNE ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Mario Petriano, the star of tv & radio shows nationwide brings his handicapping expertise to the public. His knowledge of the games, along with his connections with the "Wise Guys" give him the edge he needs to bury your man.

Mario's approach is a rare blend of thoroughly traditional values, styles, vision and daring. His legendary charm and independent spirit is rooted in his highly principled business practices, which is why to his clientele, he is quite simply known as "The Gentleman Sports Consultant!"

Today, Mario Petriano typifies the sense of adventure and fearless approach to wagering that marks his reputation for winning the big moves.

LAST SEASON A NICKEL PLAYER MADE $50,000!

DON'T WAIT, CALL NOW FOR THIS HUGE MOVE AND RECEIVE YOUR FIRST 5 PICKS ABSOLUTELY FREE!

1·800·488·4255

INNER CIRCLE CLUB
1-900-407-7700
$50 ON TAPE/MUST BE 18
1 Play A Day GUARANTEED
with 1 Month of Service

Our Exclusive Annual Report

THE STATE OF THE GAME

Lennox Lewis reclaims the title from Hasim Rahman

By William Dettloff

It is the hope of most ardent fight fans that at some point in their lives, they will find the wherewithal and the good luck to be able to convince at least a few lost souls to put down the sports section and find their way to our beloved game. Part of being a fight fan today is seeking converts; the more the merrier and all that. We read about the big fights of the 1920s and '40s and, hell, even the '80s, and we want it to be again so that you can walk into a bar or some other place of strong smells and engage a stranger in talk of this or that fighter. It almost never happens. We keep blaming it on the business, and there is much there to blame: the ruling organizations, mismatches, superfluous weight divisions, dirty promoters, bad decisions. You know the list.

But there is much too that is great about the sport of prize fighting; not the way it was in 1925, or 1940, or 1981, but today. There are a lot of great fighters around. Roy Jones is great. So are Oscar De La Hoya and Shane Mosley and maybe Vernon Forrest, too. Bernard Hopkins is great. Also Ricardo Lopez and Felix Trinidad. There are also very good ones, who someday we may all agree are great: Lennox Lewis, Fernando Vargas, Floyd Mayweather, Kostya Tszyu, Marco Antonio Barrera. There are more. Better yet, a lot of them have spent the last couple of years—and will spend this one too—fighting one another. The best against the best. It's how it's supposed to be.

On the following pages, you'll find our annual State of the Game feature, which giv you, one of the faithful few, a in-depth and comprehensi look at the game today, di sion by division. Don't be mi led; not all the news is goo There are several very po weight classes, which is t inevitable result of having t many divisions. But there a many good ones, too, and mu to be excited about. It is a go time to be a fight fan. So let of those who resist conversio Let them have their Kobe NASCAR or this or that mi lionaire ballplayer. They do know what they're missing.

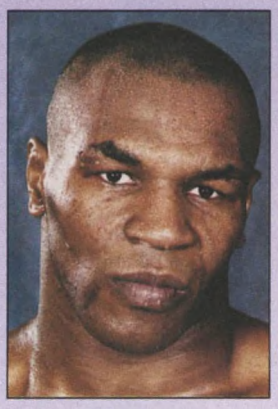
HEAVYWEIGHTS

It was four good years ago that we were busy predicting the futures of a young, incoming crop of heavyweight contenders that included David Tua, Ike Ibeabuchi, Michael Grant, Chris Byrd, and Kirk Johnson. It seemed like a good time to examine the new guys; the big dogs, Lennox Lewis, Evander Holyfield, and Mike Tyson, were getting to that age when everything goes south on a fighter. Who would have thought then that four years later none of those new guys would be a champion—not yet, maybe not ever; that Holyfield would fight John Ruiz thrice, nip-and-tuck each time, and still technically be in contention; that Tyson still would be on the verge of a title shot; and that Lennox Lewis would still be the world heavyweight champion?

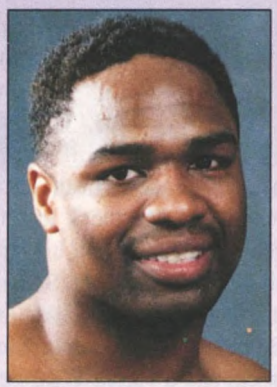
If that's strange, consider this: Not only did Lewis, Holyfield, and Tyson survive that round of young lions—though only Lewis fought any of them, knocking out Grant and shutting out Tua—but we're well into the next wave, and the three old guys are still here. That first group is now made up of veteran contenders Byrd, Tua, and Johnson; a perennial prospect in Grant, though one far less celebrated than he was four years ago; and, in Ibeabuchi, a guy who's out of the game altogether. You can throw in Hasim Rahman as part of that class, too, now an ex-champion and solid contender.

Already on their heels is the current freshman class: Wladimir Klitschko, Fres Oquendo, Jameel McCline, on a good day Lance "GOOFi" Whitaker (don't forget the Oleg Maskaev blowout just yet), and maybe still Vitali Klitschko, Cliff Etienne, and Lamon Brewster. And still, at this writing, Lewis, Tyson, and Holyfield are the best-known guys in the business. Maybe this says terrible things about the game. Maybe it says good things, that the three of them will be remembered as special fighters. Probably, it doesn't mean anything. It's just the way it is.

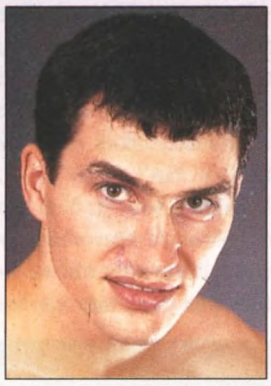
Think About It: We can't think of another age of heavyweights that split opinions as clearly as this one does. In most eras, there is consensus: Either the group is pitiable—the Pinklon Thomas, Greg Page, Tony Tubbs, Tim Witherspoon era for example—or of high quality, such as the one that spawned Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Jerry Quarry, et al. Many fall in between and are just average. Not this one. Either you think this is the worst collection of 200-plus pound men in history, or you rank it up there almost with the best group ever (the majority favors the former). Really, it's a product of the similar ambivalence many have toward Lewis, the dominant heavyweight of the era. For every guy you find who thinks Lewis is great, you can find another—at least another—who thinks he's made a career feasting on bums and he's not all that special.



Mike Tyson



Chris Byrd



Wladimir Klitschko

HEAVYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Lennox Lewis

Best Boxer
Chris Byrd

Most Protected
Faruq Saleem

Is He *Still* Around?
Ray Mercer

Matchmaker's Dream
Mike Tyson-David Tua

Deserves A Title Shot
Wladimir Klitschko

Most Fun To Watch
Hasim Rahman

On The Way Down
Henry Akinwande

Underrated
Evander Holyfield

Overrated
Kirk Johnson

Best Fight in 2001
Terrance Lewis KO 9
Robert Davis

CRUISERWEIGHTS

If there was one sure thing you could always count on among the cruiserweights, it was that the titles would change hands every six minutes. That was how we knew it was a terrible division (well, that and the awful fights). It's a proven fact that when a titlist can't make more than a defense or two without handing the belt over to the next pug in line, the division is worthless. What's the point if everyone gets to be a champion? Who are the contenders? There's no order, and that's been the story of this division since Evander Holyfield went chasing after heavyweights. That uneven consistency, that predictability about 190-pounders is something—probably the only thing—we loved about the cruiserweights. The mediocrity, the steady changing of a pedestrian guard,

CRUISERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Vassiliy Jirov

Best Boxer
Johnny Nelson

Most Protected
Vincenzo Cantatore

Is He *Still* Around?
Uriah Grant

Matchmaker's Dream
Vassiliy Jirov-Roy Jones

Deserves A Title Shot
O'Neil Bell

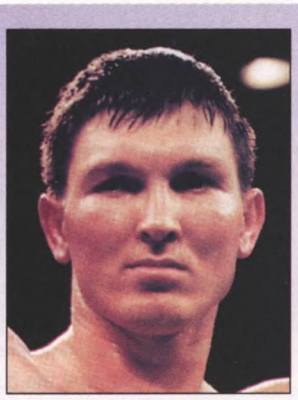
Most Fun To Watch
Wayne Braithwaite

On The Way Down
Arthur Williams

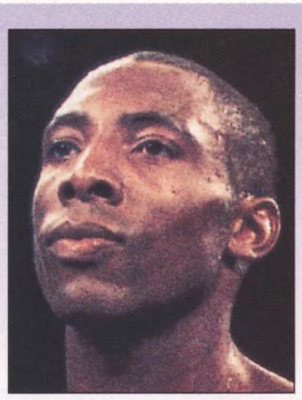
Underrated
Dale Brown

Overrated
Fabrice Tiozzo

Best Fight in 2001
Ezra Sellers KO 4
Carl Thompson



Vassiliy Jirov



Johnny Nelson

was comforting in its regularity.

For a brief moment, though, it looked like things were changing. Juan Carlos Gomez made a division-record 10 defenses of the WBC title over a four-year reign. Vassiliy Jirov has been the IBF beltholder for almost three years. He's made six defenses and fought a bunch of non-title fights, just to stay busy, like the old-timers did. He gets on television as much as he can, which is a lot lately. Both guys are undefeated. Virgil Hill, meanwhile, held on to the WBA belt for over a year—even if he didn't make a single defense in his first 12 months with the title. Things were becoming downright stable at 190 pounds.

And then, just before we went to press, the cruiserweight division reverted to form. Gomez gave up the WBC strap claiming he couldn't make the weight anymore. Hill lost his title to obscure Frenchman Jean-Marc Mormeck in late-February, quitting on his stool after the eighth round. So now, instead of Jirov, Hill, and Gomez, we have Jirov, Mormeck, and a vacant WBC belt. That's more like it.

Don't despair though. There are some up-and-coming cruiserweight contenders who can fight: O'Neil Bell, Wayne Braithwaite. Okay, only two. But it's a start.

Think About It: You know you get no respect when guys in the divisions above and below you think they can walk in and take over. Before his victory in August 2001 over David Tua, Chris Byrd said that if he lost he would seriously contemplate dropping to cruiserweight. Would you make him an underdog against Jirov or Mormeck? If that's not enough, light heavyweight champ Roy Jones has been teasing us for years with talk of a jump to 190. He'd be favored over Jirov or Mormeck, too.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Here it is another year and again we're talking about Roy Jones. You could see that as a bad thing if you were so inclined. Lots of guys out there are tired of Jones. Tired of the unfulfilled promises, tired of the one-sided fights, tired of the rapping. You can't blame them. Jones isn't exciting to the average fight fan or even to many rabid ones. Excitement typically is fueled by two-sided contests, not one guy beating on another guy for 12 rounds because he's too nice or too cautious or too something to put him away.

Not everyone is tired of Jones. There are good reasons not to be. Consider: With wins over Eric Harding, Reggie Johnson, Montell Griffin, Julio Gonzalez, Lou Del Valle, and David Telesco, Jones has beaten six of the top-10 legitimate contenders in his weight class. Who else can say that? Not Lennox Lewis. Not Oscar De La Hoya, or Kostya Tszyu, or Marco Antonio Barrera, or Ricardo Lopez. Say it another way: Jones is the most dominant champion in the business. With the exception of Dariusz Michalczewski, he's beaten ever worthwhile light heavyweigh of his era.

Here's something else: W keep insisting Jones has no on to fight, that he's mired in weak division. But really, ho weak is it? Isn't Harding good, world-class fighter Didn't Gonzalez win one of th best fights of recent years, an hasn't Griffin long been respected spoiler? Now thro in Tarver, Telesco, and John son. This is not a talentles division. It's not as good a say, the one Michael Spink ruled. But it's a better tha average weight class bein ruled by an all-time grea Same as it will be next year.

Think About It: Jones stoppage of Glen Kelly i February marked his 10t defense of the title. That' more defenses than Archi

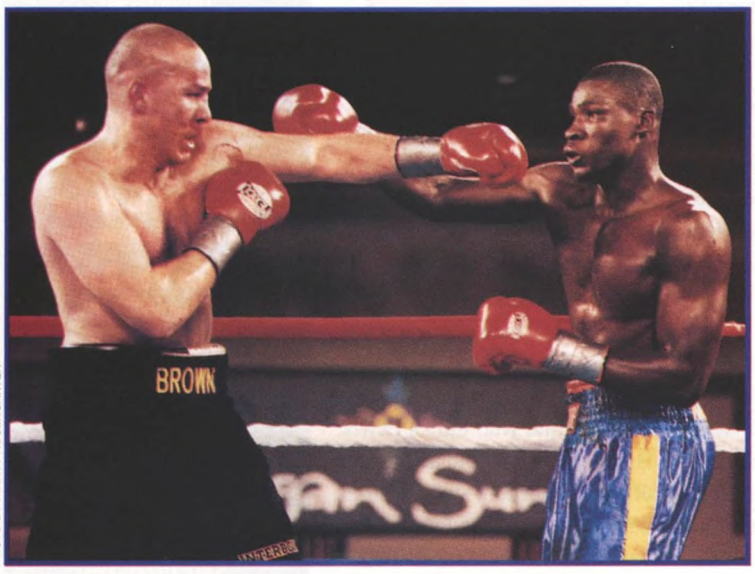


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Dale Brown and Wayne Braithwaite swap leather

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Roy Jones

Best Boxer
Roy Jones

Most Protected
Dariusz Michalczewski

Is He *Still* Around?
Michael Nunn

Matchmaker's Dream
Roy Jones-Dariusz Michalczewski

Deserves A Title Shot
Eric Harding

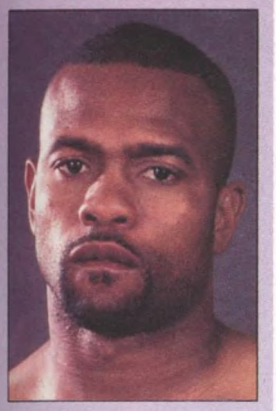
Most Fun To Watch
Julian Letterlough

On The Way Down
Montell Griffin

Underrated
Antonio Tarver

Overrated
Julian Letterlough

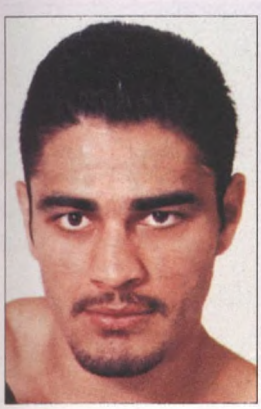
Best Fight in 2001
Julio Gonzalez W 12 Julian Letterlough



Roy Jones

Eric Harding

Antonio Tarver



Julio Gonzalez

Moore made. It's more defenses than Tommy Loughran made, or Michael Spinks or Billy Conn or John Henry Lewis or Harold Johnson. Jones is only four away from tying Bob Foster's mark of 14 in a row. And remember that Jones unified the title in 1999 against Reggie Johnson. That's something Virgil Hill, who made a division-record 20 defenses over two reigns, never did.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

It's entirely fitting that the super middleweight division—the most obscure weight class above junior bantamweight—is headed up by a guy who does all of his business in Germany, where we can't see him. It's a shame, really, because from all accounts, Sven Ottke can fight.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Antwun Echols

Best Boxer
Sven Ottke

Most Protected
Dana Rosenblatt

Is He *Still* Around?
Kevin Pompey

Matchmaker's Dream
Antwun Echols-Charles Brewer II

Deserves A Title Shot
Antwun Echols

Most Fun To Watch
Omar Sheika

On The Way Down
David Reid

Underrated
Charles Brewer

Overrated
David Starie

Best Fight in 2001
Thomas Tate KO 4
Omar Sheika

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Antwun Echols comes from behind to stop Charles Brewer

He can't hit even a little—except when he's stretching Anthony Mundine, apparently—but he was a decorated amateur and has carried his slick, defensive style to the pros with excellent results.

Don't be misled by some of the names Ottke has defended the IBF title against. Of course Giovanni Nardiello, Lloyd Bryan, Tucker Pudwill, James Crawford, and Ali Ennebati were pushovers. But he's beaten some solid contenders too: Glen Johnson, James Butler, Thomas Tate, Charles Brewer (twice). The wins over Tate and Brewer have been called into question by—well, Tate and Brewer and the guys around them. But Ottke keeps making defenses, 12 over his four-year reign. That's called getting while the getting is good.

We're not quite sure why Ottke is in such a hurry, because the rest of the division isn't much to write home about. With the exception of Joe Calzaghe—who keeps talk-

PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

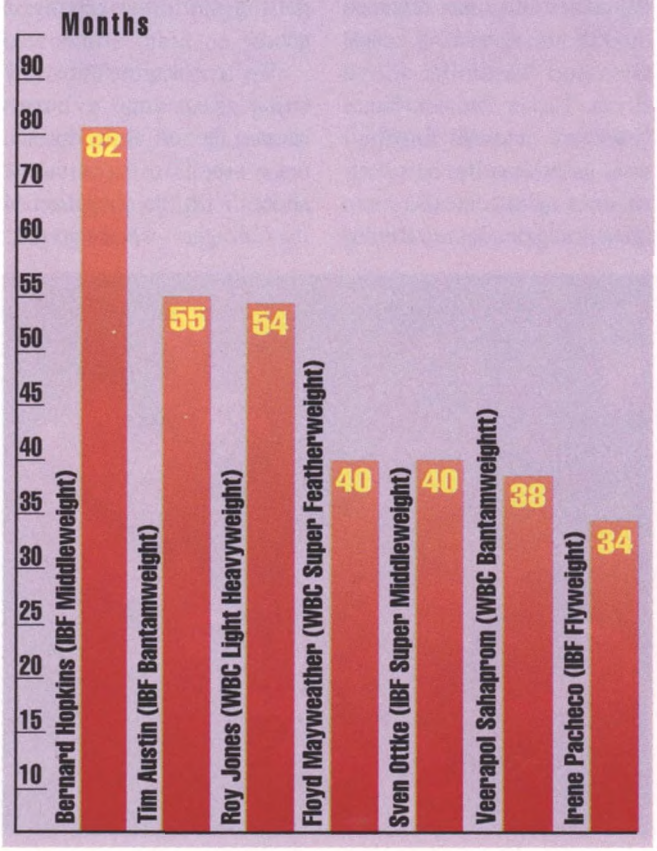
Thomas Tate and Omar Sheika go toe to toe

ing about fighting Roy Jones but in the meantime fights no one else of real merit—there isn't much there. WBC titleholder Eric Lucas is the picture of mediocrity, as were his predecessors, Glenn Catley, Dingaan Thobela, Davey Hilton, and Markus Beyer. WBA titlist Byron Mitchell is better, but only when inspired, which isn't often. The strength of the weight class is still Brewer, Tate (who already is 36 and not getting better), and power-punching Antwun Echols. After them, Omar Sheika and maybe Dana Rosenblatt if his chin holds up. Beyond that, it's a dark hole, and if you told us tomorrow that the division was being eliminated, we wouldn't shed any tears.

Think About It: We wouldn't suggest that one of the primary reasons for this division's malaise is the absence of American fighters. We'll put the numbers out there and you can decide: Of the 12 titlists who have held super middleweight belts since 1998, three are American: Frankie Liles, Brewer, and Mitchell. The balance consists of two Brits, Richie Woodhall and Catley; two South Africans, Thulane Malinga and Thobela; two Germans, Ottke and Beyer; two Canadians, Hilton and Lucas; and a Frenchman, Bruno Girard. Call it coincidence if you want.

LONGEST-REIGNING CHAMPIONS AND TITLISTS

The graph below illustrates the game's most established titlists, along with the number of consecutive months each has held the title. Gone from the list compiled last year are heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis, whose reign was interrupted by Hasim Rahman; William Joppy, who lost the WBA middleweight belt to Felix Trinidad; and Juan Carlos Gomez, who abdicated the WBC cruiser throne to campaign at heavyweight.



MIDDLEWEIGHTS

My, how Bernard Hopkins changed things at 160 pounds. Or, more accurately, he returned them to normal. We've known for years that he's the best middleweight in the world. William Joppy, his only real competition for the top spot, wasn't interested in fighting him, or maybe Don King wasn't, but either way it was an admission on someone's part that Joppy stood no chance. And Keith Holmes, the consensus next in line, wasn't even part of the discussion.

Then Felix Trinidad came along and obliterated Joppy and consequently a hell of a lot of guys thought Hopkins wasn't the best anymore—Trinidad was. Almost entirely on the weight of that lone fight, Trinidad became the consensus best and Hopkins an underdog for the first time in what, five years? Six? Eight? It didn't matter that he'd been a middleweight his whole life or that he had the right combination of smarts and skill to take Trinidad apart. But he knew it, and that's all that mattered.

While Hopkins was off slaying giants, the rest of the division remained pretty much the way he left it. Joppy has dropped a notch with the insertion of Trinidad, who certainly has abandoned plans to move up another weight class. England's Howard Eastma who gave Joppy very near more than he could handle, is pleasant surprise. But Arman Krajnc, though difficult to de a high rating, is fairly u proven; Harry Simon can decide between junior midd and middle; Holmes, Hassi Cherifi, and Carl Daniels a old news; and Antonio Per

MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Felix Trinidad

Best Boxer
Bernard Hopkins

Most Protected
Antonio Perugino

Is He *Still* Around?
Aaron Davis

Matchmaker's Dream
Bernard Hopkins-Oscar De La Hoya

Deserves A Title Shot
Armand Krajnc

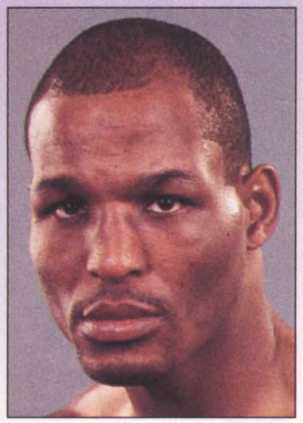
Most Fun To Watch
Bernard Hopkins

On The Way Down
Hassine Cherifi

Underrated
Howard Eastman

Overrated
Erland Betare

Best Fight in 2001
Bernard Hopkins KO 12 Felix Trinidad


Bernard Hopkins

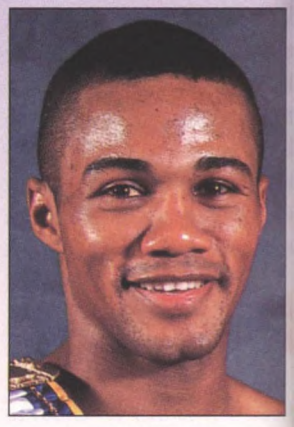

Felix Trinidad

PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

Howard Eastman takes the fight to William Joppy

gino and Tito Mendoza are not ready for the division's best, if they ever will be. In other words, things haven't changed a lot.

Think About It: After whipping Daniels in February to break Carlos Monzon's division record for most title defenses, Hopkins said he would retire after his 20th defense. That means he has five to go. Who could the five opponents be? (Forget Roy Jones; if they fight, it won't be for the 160-pound belt.) Include three mandatory alphabet challengers—say, Erland Betare, maybe Joppy if he keeps winning, and Mendoza. That leaves two more. If Trinidad wins a couple of comeback fights, it could be him, and that leaves just one—maybe Oscar De La Hoya? Don't rule it out, especially if the Jones fight doesn't come through and if De La Hoya beats Fernando Vargas.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Remember a few years ago when we all were raving about how great the junior middleweight division would be after all those wonderful welterweights moved up? Well, it happened and it didn't happen. Oscar De La Hoya is the WBC 154-pound titlist, so that part was right. But what happened to the rest of that welterweight class? Pernell Whitaker is old and gone. Felix Trinidad made a brief and explosive appearance at 154, then kept right on going. Ike Quartey is on Pluto for all we know, maybe with Jose Luis Lopez right next to him.

The news isn't all bad, though. Between De La Hoya, the 154-pound originals, and the current welterweights who soon will be junior middles, there's considerable talent here and some very good fights. Right off the bat you have De La Hoya against Fernando Vargas on May 4. There is not a more attractive fight in the game. After that? How about Winky Wright against Vargas again? Or De La Hoya against Wright? How about veteran slugger Yory Boy Campas against Francisco Castillejo or Bronco McKart, or one of the division's gatekeepers against fast-rising Kassim Ouma? There are lots of good fights here.

It gets better. Welterweight champion Vernon Forrest already has said he'll move to 154 after unifying the belts at 147 and after a rematch with Shane Mosley. Don't count out a jump by Mosley, either. He was ready to do it against Wright, and a rematch with De La Hoya would promise the kind of money needed to lure him there too, whether or not

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Fernando Vargas

Best Boxer
Oscar De La Hoya

Most Protected
Roman Karmazin

Is He *Still* Around?
Vincent Pettway

Matchmaker's Dream
Oscar De La Hoya-Fernando Vargas

Deserves A Title Shot
Bronco McKart

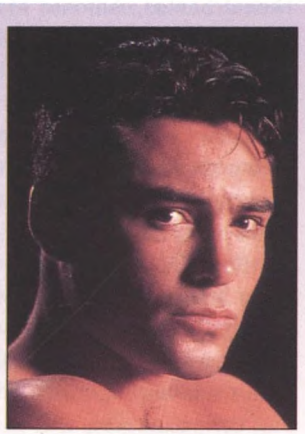
Most Fun To Watch
Fernando Vargas

On The Way Down
Tony Marshall

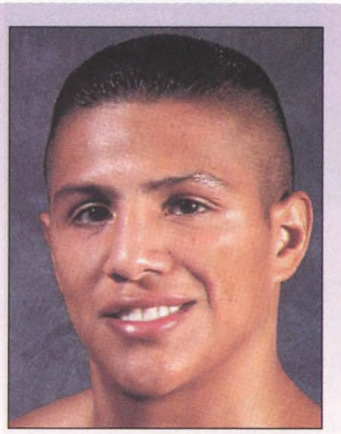
Underrated
Alex Bunema

Overrated
Roman Karmazin

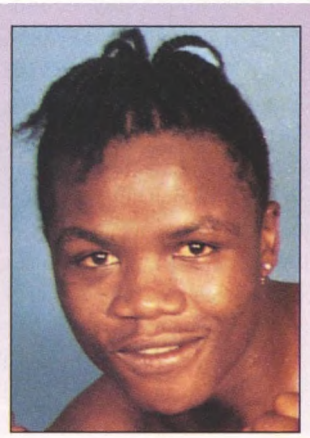
Best Fight in 2001
Kassim Ouma W 10 Verno Phillips



Oscar De La Hoya



Fernando Vargas



Kassim Ouma

his body is ready. So who needs all those mid-1990s welterweight stars? The junior middleweights are doing fine without them.

Think About It: If you say enough times that a guy is underrated, he often ends up overrated. So have we ended up overrating Winky Wright? Consider: He lost without controversy to Harry Simon a few years back, and remains the only championship-level fighter on Simon's record (unless you count Hassine Cherifi, which we do not); he dropped a close, but in most opinions, correct decision to Vargas; from all appearances he deliberately priced himself out of a fight with Shane Mosley; and his first major title came with a wholly pedestrian win over the ordinary Robert Frazier. Let's hope we discover in 2002 the exact measure of his worth either way.

Shane Mosley crashes to the mat against Vernon Forrest

WELTERWEIGHTS

At first look, it was easy to think that Vernon Forrest's upset of Shane Mosley was going to shake up the welterweight division. It was big. It had that kind of magnitude, like Hasim Rahman's win over Lennox Lewis, that, for a short while at least, completely discombobulated the heavyweight landscape. But it didn't happen. Here's why: No one was calling Rahman the second-best heavyweight in the world. Everyone knew Forrest was the second- or third-best best welterweight, and if he wasn't, he was the best. Rahman's win changed everything because even though he'd unseated a dominant champion, he was entirely beatable. All the contenders had a chance.

That's not how it is with Forrest. He's undefeated. And he didn't stake his claim with a single Hail Mary like Rahman did. He beat Mosley like a drum for 12 fairly one-sided rounds. The consequence is that the welterweight rundown is essentially unchanged. Only two spots—number one and number two—are different. The balance of the division remains as it was. Andrew Lewis is still the consensus third-best welterweight, behind Forrest and Mosley. He appears not to reside on their level, but it's still a plane higher than the rest of the top-10: Daniel Santos, Antonio Margarito, Manuel Gomez, Michele Piccirillo, Thomas Damgaard.

It may be a year or more before some of the better welterweights outside the top three—say, Cory Spinks or Antonio Diaz—are able to make serious runs at the title. But by that time, Mosley and Forrest may well be on to the junior middleweight division, and the youngsters will have only Lewis to contend with. It's better for them if they'r patient.

Think About It: Stev Johnston was regarded as th second-best lightweight whe Mosley was doing business 135, just as Forrest was consi ered by most to be second-be behind Mosley at 147. We sa what happened with Mosle and Forrest. Who knows wh would have happened ha Mosley and Johnston gotte together? It's true that Joh ston and Forrest are completel dissimilar fighters, but wh knows? Remember: Mosle has looked completely specta ular against mostly second-ti competition. At his best, Stev Johnston was first-tier.

WELTERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Vernon Forrest

Best Boxer
Vernon Forrest

Most Protected
Hercules Kyvelos

Is He *Still* Around?
Rafael Pineda

Matchmaker's Dream
Vernon Forrest-Shane Mosley II

Deserves A Title Shot
Thomas Damgaard

Most Fun To Watch
Shane Mosley

On The Way Down
James Page

Underrated
Antonio Margarito

Overrated
Michele Piccirillo

Best Fight in 2001
Manuel Gomez KO 10
Kofi Jantuah

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

By this time, Zab Juda was supposed to have change the look of the junior welte weight division. It wasn going to be a mere weight cla anymore, but a fistic haven f

Thomas Damgaard

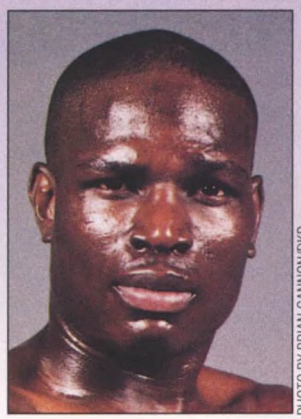


PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

Andrew Lewis

hip-hop fighters and Mike Tyson wannabees. Top of the food chain and all that. But a funny thing happened on the way: Quietly, almost sheepishly, Kostya Tszyu busted a right cross on his jaw and sent him tumbling all around like a miniature Trevor Berbick on the day he lost the WBC heavyweight title.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Kostya Tszyu

Best Boxer
Kostya Tszyu

Most Protected
Hector Camacho Jr.

Is He *Still* Around?
Julio Cesar Chavez

Matchmaker's Dream
Arturo Gatti-Micky Ward

Deserves A Title Shot
Ben Tackie

Most Fun To Watch
Micky Ward

On The Way Down
Ray Oliveira

Underrated
Omar Weis

Overrated
Hector Camacho Jr.

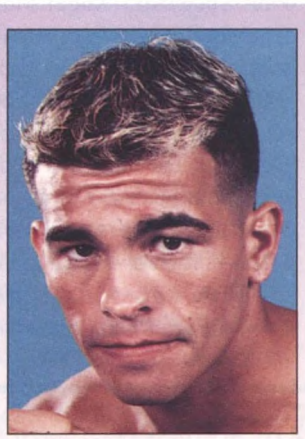
Best Fight in 2001
Micky Ward W 10
Emanuel Burton

So where does that leave us? Still with the best weight class in the game. Only now with a world champion at the helm that, because he vanquished the guy everyone thought was his severest threat, is finally appreciated. The thing is, in this division there are threats at every turn. Sure Tszyu is the best at 140—maybe not by a little. But we can't remember a time when the 140-pound division was so stocked with formidable contenders. Any way you look at it, there's not a bad fight in the top 20.

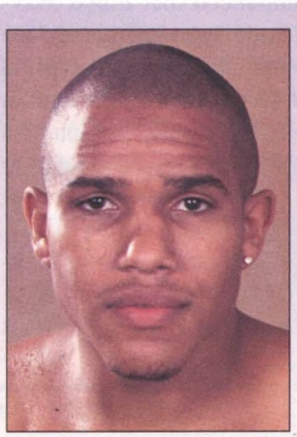
Start with the old guys, Micky Ward and Jesse James Leija, and an apparently rejuvenated Arturo Gatti. Sure they've been around forever. Yes, they've seen better days. Do you still want to see them fight? Of course you do! But maybe you have an aversion to pugs past their best. Try newcomer DeMarcus "Chop Chop" Corley, or knockout artist Randall Bailey, or English slugger Ricky Hatton. Try the indefatigable Ben Tackie, or the underappreciated Oktay Urkal. And don't forget Sharmba Mitchell and even Judah. The best part? Every time we turn around, they're fighting one another. The junior welterweight division is a great reason to be a fight fan.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Kostya Tszyu blasts out Zab Judah



Arturo Gatti



Sharmba Mitchell

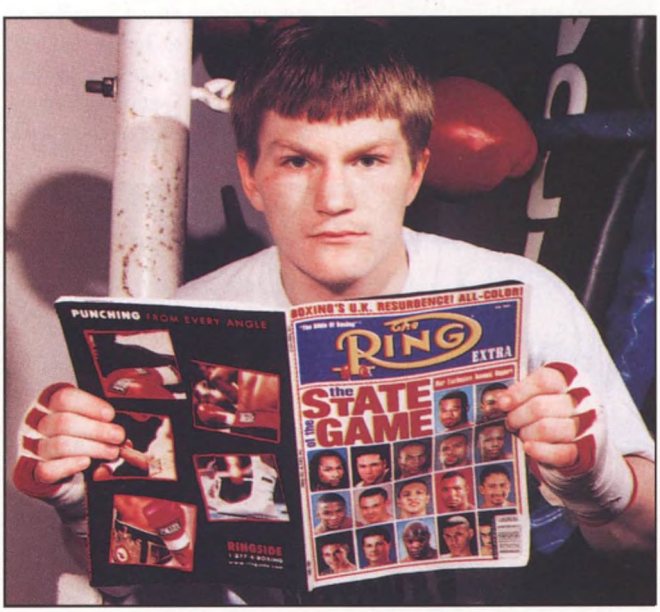


PHOTO BY HARRY GOODWIN

Ricky Hatton checks out last year's State of the Game

Think About It: Why did it take a victory over Judah to make us appreciate Tszyu? The guy's been a pro for 10 years, has one loss on his ledger, and has been a perfectly respectable champion. Maybe he doesn't have the pop in his mitts like he used to or that he was supposed to have early on. Maybe he looks beatable a lot of the time. Maybe he's not quite the phenom he was in the amateurs. But you can't deny the guy's numbers. Shame on us for waiting so long to give him his due.

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Just as we were going to press, Bob Arum's Top Rank announced that Floyd Mayweather would indeed face WBC titlist Jose Luis Castillo in Mayweather's first fight at 135. There was a question for a while because Mayweather wanted to break in at lightweight a little more slowly—by taking on former featherweight titlist Alejandro Gonzalez. But HBO nixed that bout, fearful of airing a potentially embarrassing mismatch (a privilege accorded only Roy Jones bouts, apparently). At any rate, Mayweather's insertion into the 135-pound mix further spices up an interesting division.

Castillo, while probably little match for Mayweather's speed and wizardry, is a solid, powerful lightweight whose bruising wins over Stevie Johnston and Cesar Bazan, followed by three easy knockout wins against lesser opponents, mark him as the division's best—at least until Mayweather proves otherwise. Who do you like next? The veteran Johnston? The streaking Juan Lazcano? Maybe the winner of Paul Spadafora-Angel Manfredy? Or Leonard Dorin, whose savage brawl with Raul Balbi produced an early contender for Fight of the Year? Don't rule out Balbi in a return with Dorin, either. For anyone who thought his win over Julien Lorcy was a fluke or that the little-known Argentine couldn't fight, Balbi confirmed otherwise.

BOXING ON TV

Who needs the networks? There wasn't a single fight shown on free television in '01, but for the second year in a row, the total number of televised cards rose, from 160 the previous year to 161 in '01. The prognosis looks just as good for 2002; rumors point to another weekly ESPN series, and Showtime looks committed to its Saturday afternoon ***ShoBox*** *program. A breakdown of the number of cards aired by each cable station in '01 appears below.*

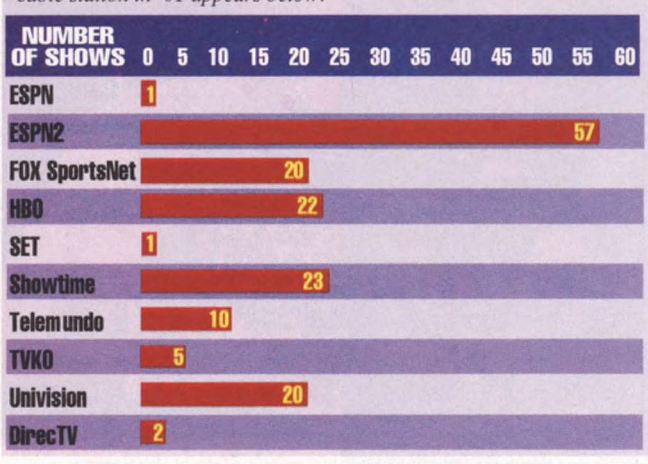
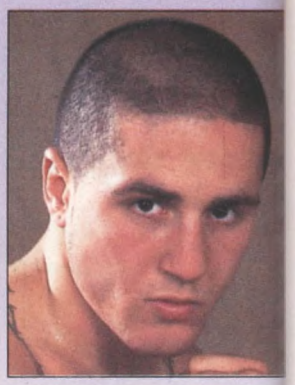
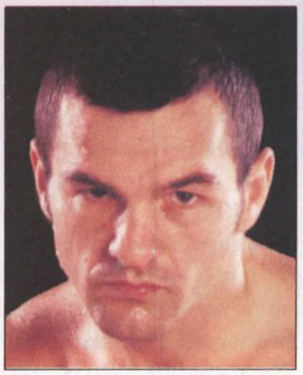


PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Jose Luis Castillo



Paul Spadafora



Leonard Dorin

Stevie Johnston

LIGHTWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Jose Luis Castillo

Best Boxer
Steve Johnston

Most Protected
Artur Grigorian

Is He *Still* Around?
Leavander Johnson

Matchmaker's Dream
Jose Luis Castillo-Floyd Mayweather

Deserves A Title Shot
Steve Johnston

Most Fun To Watch
Leonard Dorin

On The Way Down
Billy Irwin

Underrated
Paul Spadafora

Overrated
Stefano Zoff

Best Fight in 2001
Jose Luis Castillo KO 6 Cesar Bazan

There are youngsters pump ing life into the lightweight too. Julio Diaz probably bea Manfredy but for whatever rea son didn't get the nod Lazcano, while shrewdly man aged, appears finally ready fo prime time. Artur Grigoria and Colin Dunne are unprove as yet, but may challenge i 2002.

Think About It: Wher were all these good light weights a couple of years ag when Shane Mosley was sti there? Were guys like Demetri Ceballos, John-John Molin Jesse James Leija, and Eduard Morales the only ones brav enough to get into the ring wit him? It seemed at the time lik Mosley cleaned out the divi sion—with the exception o Johnson—but who wouldn have liked that Mosley again this Castillo, or this Spadafor or even this Manfredy? O course Mosley would hav been favored. But it woul have been interesting anyway.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Who would have thought that for the second year in a row, we'd be looking back at a junior lightweight superfight? Last time it was Floyd Mayweather's emphatic spanking of Diego Corrales in the first big fight at 130 in years. This year it's Acelino Freitas' somewhat curious decision win over Joel Casamayor in a meeting of the consensus second- and third-best junior lights around. It was curious not so much for the outcome, which was greeted in mostly equal parts with approval and incredulity by the fight media, but because the fighters switched roles in terms of the style each employed. Also for the fact that had it not been for the dubious officiating of referee Joe Cortez, the bout would have been a draw, and when was the last time that made anyone happy?

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Acelino Freitas clips Joel Casamayor on the chin

The class will not be better in 2002. Both Mayweather and Freitas have stated their intention to jump to lightweight (Mayweather first, Freitas maybe after another fight or two), leaving Casamayor, IBF titlist Steve Forbes, and perhaps Jesus Chavez—who lost to Mayweather in a surprisingly entertaining dilly back in November—as the division leaders. None are bad fighters and each can entertain given the proper opponent, but none can claim even a bit of Mayweather's speed and skill or Freitas' pop and charisma.

In short, the division will lack a big name. Perhaps if Casamayor had beaten Freitas, he'd have it, but he didn't so he doesn't. Forbes is competent, but lacks star quality. Maybe Chavez, with the strong backing of the Mexican contingency, can develop into something big. But even then everyone will know it was only because Mayweather moved up. Unfortunately, the bottom half of the division doesn't sparkle. Jongkwon Baek, Lavka Sim, and Phillip Ndou are unknown to all but the hardcore. There's more bad news: Although featherweight is only four pounds to the south, none of the names there have shared plans to move up. The next junior lightweight star will have to be home grown, and that may take some time.

Think About It: In a sense, Mayweather's rise to lightweight will be a boon to the 130-pound division. Who there was going to beat him? Or even win a round against him? It's true that there won't be a big name, but at least there will be some competition. Freitas showed that Casamayor is beatable and it probably won't take another Mayweather to give Chavez another loss. It may take no more than Forbes. Look at it this way: Junior lightweight survived the loss of Julio Cesar Chavez, Hector Camacho, Tony Lopez, Rocky Lockridge, and Azumah Nelson. It'll live without Mayweather, too.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Acelino Freitas

Best Boxer
Floyd Mayweather

Most Protected
Randy Suico

Is He *Still* Around?
Tom Johnson

Matchmaker's Dream
Floyd Mayweather-Acelino Freitas

Deserves A Title Shot
Phillip Ndou

Most Fun To Watch
Jesus Chavez

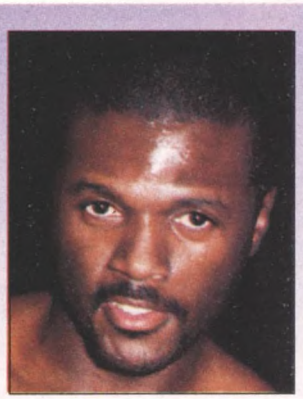
On The Way Down
John Brown

Underrated
Steve Forbes

Overrated
David Santos

Best Fight in 2001
Phillip Ndou W 12 Cassius Baloyi

Floyd Mayweather



Steve Forbes

FEATHERWEIGHTS

A couple of years ago we were wondering who was going to win the Marco Antonio Barrera-Erik Morales fight. Most picked Morales and

FEATHERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Naseem Hamed

Best Boxer
Marco Antonio Barrera

Most Protected
Naseem Hamed

Is He *Still* Around?
Steve Robinson

Matchmaker's Dream
Marco Antonio Barrera-Erik Morales II

Deserves A Title Shot
Juan Manuel Marquez

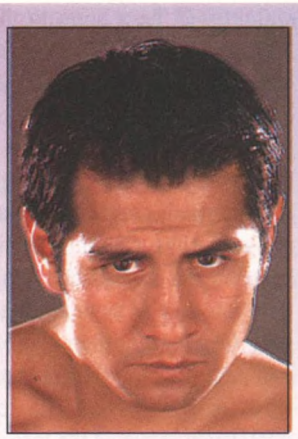
Most Fun To Watch
Marco Antonio Barrera

On The Way Down
Guty Espadas

Underrated
Mbulelo Botile

Overrated
Derrick Gainer

Best Fight in 2001
Daniel Seda KO 9 Nana Konadu



Marco Antonio Barrera

Erik Morales

Naseem Hamed

were wrong, even if the judges said they were right. This year, happily, we're talking about who will win the rematch. Either way, we do know this: Whoever wins Barrera-Morales II will be the world featherweight champion. End of story. No one else has a right to it, and for the first time in a long while, the guy recognized as the best 126-pounder isn't named Naseem Hamed, since Barrera embarrassed him in one of 2001's most enjoyable upsets (for the record, the others were Rahman KO 5 Lewis and Hopkins KO 12 Trinidad).

Regardless of whether it's Barrera or Morales who resides at the top, featherweight is one of the game's better divisions. Outside of the two top dogs, you have Hamed, who, as flawed as he is, is clearly the most dangerous hitter in the class. There's the always entertaining Johnny Tapia, the resilient Manuel Medina, classic boxers Mbulelo Botile and Derrick Gainer, and the deftly avoided Juan Manuel Marquez. A surprise: the resurgent John Michael Johnson, who pancaked Augie Sanchez on a nationally televised ESPN2 card and almost instantly put himself in line for a shot at one of the division's bigger guns.

The class doesn't have the depth that exists at junior welterweight, where any pairing among the top 20 guys is a competitive fight. But there's enough going on at feather to keep us interested. For example: Where does the loser of Barrera-Morales II go? Hamed? Tapia? And how about a go between those two? Or between Marquez and the winner of Barrera-Morales II? There are plenty of possibilities here.

Think About It: Is there a curse attached to the WBA belt, or what? Freddie Norwood, a reasonably talented fighter, labored through a pair of tumultuous reigns as the titlist, lost the belt in a wholly bizarre fight to Derrick Gainer, and promptly fell off the map. Gainer, normally an active fighter, managed just a single defense in his first 17 months with the belt, and saw his long-standing relationship with Ro Jones go south. It's not s much that we mind; watchin Gainer fight is a little lik watching Jones fight, excep we think Jones could take it o the chin from a top guy if h had to. Still, it's strange.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

As good as the first fig between Bones Adams an Paulie Ayala was, it left yo feeling a little bit empty. Her was Ayala winning yet anothe questionable decision, and her we were, still unsure who th best guy at 122 pounds was. I was pretty clear these were th top two; there are harder hitter in the division, but no on comes close to either of ther in terms of skill and probabl in class, too. But who was rea

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Manny Pacquiao

Best Boxer
Paulie Ayala

Most Protected
Willie Jorrin

Is He *Still* Around?
John Lowey

Matchmaker's Dream
Paulie Ayala-Manny Pacquia

Deserves A Title Shot
Michael Brodie

Most Fun To Watch
Manny Pacquiao

On The Way Down
Enrique Sanchez

Underrated
Oscar Larios

Overrated
Willie Jorrin

Best Fight in 2001
Paulie Ayala W 12
Bones Adams

PHOTO BY HOWARD STERNBERG

TITLISTS vs. TITLISTS

One of several ways to calculate a titlist's worth relative to his compatriots is to count the number of other titlists or champions he's defeated. Here's how THE RING's top-10 pound-for-pound compare:

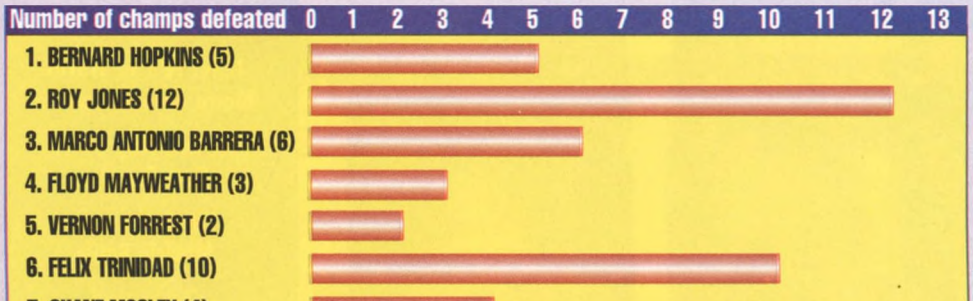


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Bones Adams and Paulie Ayala fire right hands

ly the top dog? It's questions like that—and the fact that their first fight was so much fun—that prompted HBO and Bob Arum to put together a rematch. And this time, we got another entertaining scrap, and we got the added bonus of a clear-cut winner. Ayala, who outhustled Adams from start to finish, is the king of this division, and he didn't need any help from the judges to get there.

The rest of the division is solid. Manny Pacquiao, though somewhat disappointing against dirty rotten spoiler Agapito Sanchez, is a true hitter. What he did to poor Lehlo Ledwaba—still a heck of a solid contender—was no accident, and anyone he catches square a couple of times is going. That could include Adams or Ayala if one of them got lazy in there. Oscar Larios, while a full level below Ayala, Adams, and even Pacquaio, is a tough nut, as Willie Jorrin found out last year. Speaking of Jorrin, he could contend with Ayala in one department: getting repeated close, and in a couple cases, undeserved decisions. And if Bob Arum is Ayala's good luck charm, is Jorrin's Don Chargin?

The bottom of the class is solid but unspectacular. Michael Brodie—who's probably still burning up, two years after the fact, over the decision Jorrin got over him to win the WBC title—should get a return shot soon. Israel Vazquez and WBA beltholder Yoddamrong Sithyodthong show promise, and Enrique Sanchez, no longer a top guy after getting butchered by Marco Antonio Barrera in 2001, will assume the role of dependable gatekeeper.

Think About It: Is it us, or does it seem like a million years ago that Tracy Patterson, Kennedy McKinney, Welcome Ncita, and Vuyani Bungu were junior featherweight titleholders? Was it really five years ago that Erik Morales stopped Daniel Zaragoza to win the WBC belt? Does anyone else remember Wilfredo Vazquez, young and hungry, stopping Raul Perez for the WBA crown? See how you're getting sentimental for those days? That's the way you'll feel in a couple of years about Paulie Ayala and Bones Adams. And you'll be right to feel that way.

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Here it is another year and we're still waiting for Tim Austin to get his big fight. We wager we'll still be waiting next year and maybe another year after that too, and that'll be it. Austin will be about 34 then and not the guy he was five years ago or even the guy he is today. You neglect something long enough and it'll go stale all on its own—that's Austin, and it's a shame because it looked like 2001 was going to be his year. Don King got him on HBO a couple of times, he even got in three title defenses between March and December. It was the first year since 1995—that's right, six years—that Austin had as

BANTAMWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Tim Austin

Best Boxer
Tim Austin

Most Protected
Johnny Bredahl

Is He *Still* Around?
Rodolfo Blanco

Matchmaker's Dream
Tim Austin-
Veerapol Sahaprom

Deserves A Title Shot
Rafael Marquez

Most Fun To Watch
Adan Vargas

On The Way Down
Jorge Eliecer Julio

Underrated
Rafael Marquez

Overrated
Diego Morales

Best Fight in 2001
Rafael Marquez W 10
Mark Johnson

PHOTO BY HOLLY STEINBERG

Manny Pacquiao takes the IBF belt from Lehlo Ledwaba

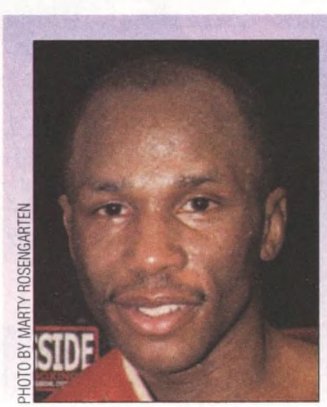
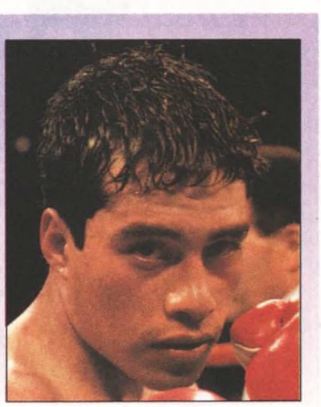


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Tim Austin



Adan Vargas

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Veerapol Sahaprom (left) battles to a draw with Toshiaki Nishioka

many as three fights in a 12-month period. What a shame.

The saddest part is, the guys Austin could have made some money against all have moved up. Paulie Ayala is a junior featherweight. Johnny Tapia is a fast, chubby 126-pounder. Who's left at 118 for Austin? Rafael Marquez, perhaps, who has now beaten Mark Johnson twice. That's the only guy Austin makes any money against—and it's not nearly as much money as he would have made against "Too Sharp" if he had prevailed against Marquez. Yes, Eidy Moya's a good, tough fighter, and who wouldn't like seeing Adan Vargas in there against Austin? But those are good fights only for nuts like us. Austin could go to Thailand to meet Veerapol Sahaprom, and we could see him doing it, but what would be left after that?

There's not much for Austin in the lower end of the division's top-10, either. Denmark's Johnny Bredahl, impressive against Ayala a few years back, is probably the best of the lot. Then it's Mauricio Martinez, Heriberto Ruiz, and Genaro Garcia. For Austin, not a decent paycheck in the bunch.

Think About It: Between 1996 and 2001, Austin had 11 fights. Compare that to the business done over the same period by Ayala and Tapia, the two guys Austin was targeting for superfights way back when; Ayala had 17 fights, Tapia 19. Bones Adams, another contemporary, matched Austin's 11-fight total, but that could be blamed on repeated injuries. Here's more: During the same six-year stretch, Lennox Lewis and Roy Jones went into the ring 13 and 16 times, respectively, and they get what, a zillion bucks a fight? We can't blame King anymore. When he didn't keep Tapia busy, Tapia sued him and got out of th contract. He's done it mo than once, in fact. What Austin waiting for?

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

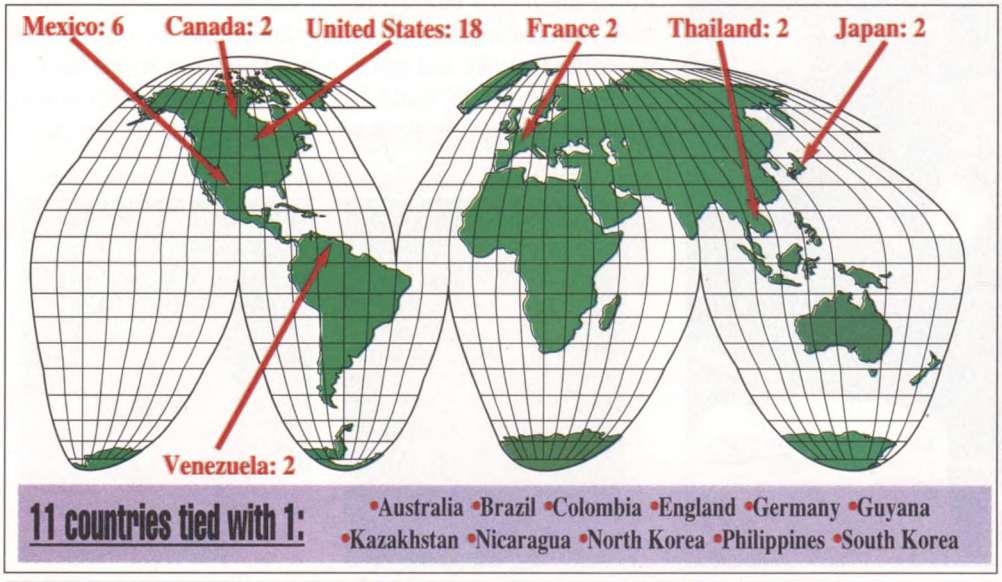
If you're looking for figh ers from Cincinnati or Baker field or Jersey City, you' come to the wrong place. H the second year in a row, n one of THE RING's top- junior bantamweights is fro the United States. A lot other places are represente North and South Korea, Japa Venezuela, Thailand, Panam Columbia, Mexico. No Am ricans. It's all right, thoug When was the last time the was a Japanese heavyweig champion?

This just goes to show th America doesn't have a mon

PHOTO BY STEVE MATTEO/HBO

THE CHAMPS AND TITLISTS BY COUNTRIES

Despite all the unifications and partial unifications that went on in 2001, the number of titlists was reduced by just one from last year, from 46 to 45. Why? Because in their infinite wisdom, the WBA is recognizing both a "champion" and a "super champion" in three different divisions. Whatever. As much as we hate it, they are "titlists." Of the six fighters THE RING recognizes as true world champions, four are from the United States, with one each from England and Australia. (Titlists as of February 24, 2002)



11 countries tied with 1: •Australia •Brazil •Colombia •England •Germany •Guyana •Kazakhstan •Nicaragua •North Korea •Philippines •South Korea

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Samson Toyota-Thailand

Best Boxer
Masamori Tokuyama

Most Protected
Dimitri Kirilov

Is He *Still* Around?
Julio Coronel

Matchmaker's Dream
Masamori Tokuyama-Celes Kobayashi

Deserves A Title Shot
Gerry Penalosa

Most Fun To Watch
Mauricio Pastrana

On The Way Down
In Joo Cho

Underrated
Gerry Penalosa

Overrated
Reynaldo Hurtado

Best Fight in 2001
Masamori Tokuyama W 12
Gerry Penalosa

PHOTO BY STEVE MITCHELL

Felix Machado strikes Mauricio Pastrana with a left

poly on good fighters, especially once you get down to 115 pounds. Venezuela has a good one in Felix Machado, one of the few guys we've seen at this weight on television. (Remember how he was robbed against Julio Gamboa a couple of years back?) With wins over WBA bantamweight titlist Eidy Moya and fiery Mauricio Pastrana, he may be the class of the division. But don't forget North Korea's smooth-boxing Masamori Tokuyama, the WBC beltholder, who twice defeated former champ In Joo Cho. And don't underestimate hard-hitting WBA titlist Celes Kobayashi; wins over Jesus Rojas and the resilient Leo Gamez say good things about him.

The rest of the division is solid too. Veteran Gerry Penalosa lost a heated one to Tokuyama and may be headed for a rematch. Undefeated Samson Toyota-Thailand is primed for a move on one of the beltholders. And Rojas, Pastrana, Cho, and Panama's Pedro Alcazar all are competent guys who could challenge any of the titlists in the coming year. It doesn't matter that they aren't your next-door neighbors or that you're completely unlikely to run into one of them at the neighborhood deli one Saturday morning or at a Wednesday evening PTA meeting. They can fight anyway.

Celes Kobayashi

Think About It: There are some good, American junior bantamweights that just haven't cracked THE RING's top 10 yet, right? Not exactly. There just aren't any. Period. The WBA didn't list an American junior bantamweight in the top 12 of their December 2001 ratings, and the WBC, which rates the top 30 fighters in each weight class, didn't rank an American either in their February '02 ratings. The IBF listed number-three Martin Castillo and number-13 Vernie Torres as Americans in their January '02 ratings, but in fact, Castillo is a Mexican, while Torres just moved to the U.S. from the Philippines a couple of years ago. For the record, the countries with the most top-10 junior bantamweight representation among the three governing bodies are Japan (6), Thailand (5), Colombia (5), and the ever-popular Vacant (2).

FLYWEIGHTS

The common thinking is that Americans don't care much about little fighters because they're little. It's not entirely true. Yes, we'll always like big fighters the most, but the reason many of us don't care about the tiny guys is because there aren't many good tiny American fighters. And the good foreign ones don't fight here. It isn't a size-prejudice; it's more a question of exposure. Give us a tiny American who can fight a little and we'll care. Or, for that matter, give us a tiny foreign fighter who fights in America once in a while.

Want proof? Eric Morel is about as tiny as fighters come. Yet every time he fights it's to the delight of happy, scream-

FLYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Pongsaklek Wonjongkam

Best Boxer
Eric Morel

Most Protected
Irene Pacheco

Is He *Still* Around?
Scotty Olsen

Matchmaker's Dream
Eric Morel-Pongsaklek Wonjongkam

Deserves A Title Shot
Hawk Makepula

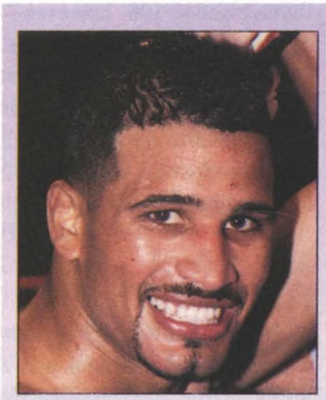
Most Fun To Watch
Hawk Makepula

On The Way Down
Isidro Garcia

Underrated
Gilberto Keb-Baas

Overrated
Alexander Mahmutov

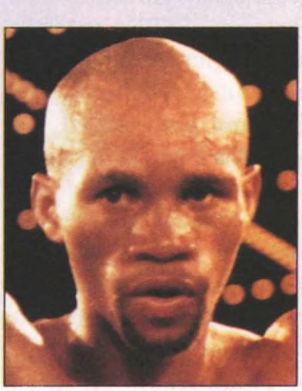
Best Fight in 2001
Eric Morel KO 8
Jose DeJesus Lopez



Eric Morel

Pongsaklek Wonjongkam

Irene Pacheco



Hawk Makepula

WHAT'S IN, WHAT'S OUT

IN	OUT
Julio Diaz	Antonio Diaz
GoldenPalace.com	Houseofboxing.com
The Garden	The Blue Horizon
Laila Ali	Hector Camacho Jr.
San Francisco	Atlantic City
Prefight fisticuffs	Postfight blubbering
"Big Time"	"GOOFi"
Unification fights	Alphabet mandatories
Body art	Silver teeth
Old school	The Prince
Michael Moorer	Michael Bennett

ing, albeit small crowds, whether he's in Wisconsin or Puerto Rico. He's fought on national television seven times in the last four years. It's not even like he's a Hall of Famer or anything. He can fight, so we watch. It was the same way with Danny Romero for a while and Mark Johnson. The good news is there are plenty of guys for Morel to practice against. This is a solid division, even outside of hard-slugging WBC titlist Pongsaklek Wonjongkam and IBF beltholder Irene Pacheco, the latter of whom also has been seen on American television a couple of times (most recently blowing out Mike Trejo in four rounds.)

Heading up the contenders is Hawk Makepula, who will probably forever ride that bad decision he got against Pacheco on ESPN2's *Friday Night Fights*. Alejandro Montiel and Medgoen Toyota-Thailand both would give Makepula a run for his money, as would the promising Fernando Montiel. Former titlist Malcolm Tunacao will need some rebuilding time following his one-round blowout loss to Pongsaklek.

Think About It: In one sense, Morel is in the same fairly unusual position that Roy Jones is: If he wants the big money, it's down in weight he has to go, not up. There's nothing for Morel at junior bantamweight. Who is he going to make money against? Masamori Tokuyama? Felix Machado? Way too much risk for very little return. If he goes there it should be because he has to. Several interesting fights exist at 108, however—against Ricardo Lopez, against Rosendo Alvarez, maybe Bebis Mendoza or Yosam Choi. Our only question is, how does a guy who tips the scales at 112 lose weight?

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Remember all those years when Michael Carbajal was a junior flyweight titlist and we begged and begged Lopez to have a sandwich already and take him on at 108? It never happened, of course, for whatever reason. It somehow makes it harder to stand now that, after all those years of begging, Lopez has finally put on the three pounds and Carbajal is long gone. So is Chiquita Gonzalez. A lot of decent junior flyweights that could have been interesting opponents for Lopez are history, and there aren't a heck of a lot of 108-pounders out there now who are as interesting as some of them would have been.

Of course, there is Rosendo Alvarez, who came up from strawweight as well, and would probably love a third crack at Lopez. "El Bufalo" is probably the second best in the division, and if you doubt that, you must not have seen him brutalize poor Pichit Siriwat in January. We would have called Siriwat one of the three best in the class before that fight, but Alvarez may well have ruined him. Lopez' only other threat, if you can call him that, is WBC titlist Yosam Choi, who has neither the experience nor the skills to last with him. Besides, he never fights outside of Korea, and what reason does Lopez have to go there?

Who else is there that ca challenge Lopez at 108? N one. He's already beate Zolani Petelo. The 40-year-ol Baby Jake Matlala, who matc es Lopez in experience at leas had his best days years ago an would be overmatched phys cally. Bebis Mendoza is a soli guy, as he demonstrated in

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Ricardo Lopez

Best Boxer
Ricardo Lopez

Most Protected
Hidenobu Honda

Is He *Still* Around?
Baby Jake Matlala

Matchmaker's Dream
Ricardo Lopez-
Rosendo Alvarez III

Deserves A Title Shot
Bebis Mendoza

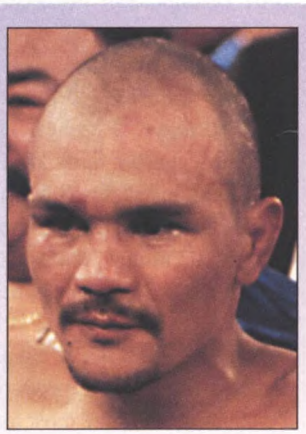
Most Fun To Watch
Ricardo Lopez

On The Way Down
Pichit Siriwat

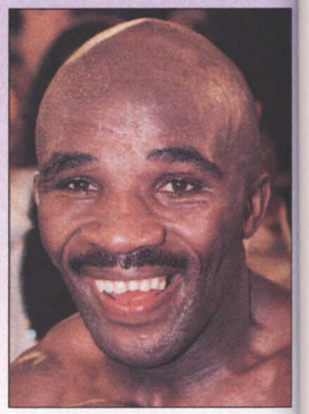
Underrated
Zolani Petelo

Overrated
Nelson Dieppa

Best Fight in 2001
Rosendo Alvarez W 12
Bebis Mendoza



Rosendo Alvarez



Baby Jake Matlala

Ricardo Lopez breaks Zolani Petelo down to the body

pair of tussles with Alvarez, but he's a full level below Lopez. Hidenobu Honda, Nelson Dieppa, and Jorge Arce are good enough competition for the rest of the guys in the top-10 except maybe for Alvarez, who blows them out. Really, there's only one fight worth watching at junior fly: Lopez-Alvarez III.

STRAWWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Roberto Leyva

Best Boxer
Jose Aguirre

Most Protected
Khulile Makeba

Is He *Still* Around?
Manny Melchor

Matchmaker's Dream
Jose Aguirre-Roberto Leyva

Deserves A Title Shot
Chana Porpaoin

Most Fun To Watch
Joma Gamboa

On The Way Down
Wolf Tokimtisu

Underrated
Wandee Singwangcha

Overrated
Kermin Guardia

Best Fight in 2001
Roberto Leyva W 12
Daniel Reyes

Think About It: For how much longer will Lopez astound us? He's 34 now, old for a little guy. We were ready to start the send-off back in 1999 after his two hard fights with Alvarez—really his only hard fights—and then the bit of a struggle he had with Will Grigsby when he moved up finally and took the IBF title. But in his last two outings, which were kayo wins over the respected Ratanapol Vorapin and Petelo, he looked magnificent; as if he were 28 again, as if he were fighting more than once a year. What a gyp that he's only 108 pounds.

STRAWWEIGHTS

Let's face it, the strawweights have a hard act to follow. Never mind that there haven't been 10 real good fighters you could name in the division's 15-year history. How many Ricardo Lopezes does a division get? How many Babe Ruths has major league baseball seen? How many Michael Jordans have there been? Lopez was the biggest and best thing ever for the strawweights. Really, he's the only strawweight that's ever mattered. For you guys who love boxing's littlest division—we know you're out there, all three or four of you—Lopez was It. He created a 105-pound void when he buffed up to take on those behemoths at junior flyweight. What did he leave behind? He left behind very little.

Zolani Petelo stayed behind and made a handful of defenses of the IBF belt over a reign of three years. Then he joined Lopez at 108—where Lopez destroyed him—and things have gotten worse. The class of the division is Jose Aguirre, who admittedly has scored some important wins: over Manny Melchor, over Wandee Sinwangcha to claim the title. He has a difficult style, switching back and forth between right-handed and left. But he's no Lopez. Not only is he no Lopez, he's no Petelo. We're not sure he's even Willie Shoemaker. Follow? This is not a deep division.

Hot on Aguirre's tail is powerpunching Roberto Leyva, the IBF beltholder. He's a novice and awful easy to hit for a guy who takes up so little space, but he's a legitimate puncher. With a little seasoning, he could overtake Aguirre for the top spot. Chana Porpaoin is the veteran of the bunch, and after that it gets ugly: WBA titlist Keitaro Hoshino, Kermin Guardia, Daniel Reyes, Miguel Barrera. They're not terrible fighters, just wholly unproven or nondescript and too damned short

Jose Aguirre

and far away to make us care the way we did for Lopez, who blinded us with his brilliance. Really, with Lopez gone, is there a good reason to have this weight class anymore?

Think About It: Is Lopez the only strawweight that's ever mattered? See how much you know or can recall about the following fighters: Kyung Yun Lee, Hiroki Ioka, Napa Kiatwanchai, Bong Jun Kim, Nico Thomas, Hideyuki Ohashi, Phalan Lukmingkwan. Not a thing, right? They all were titlists in the strawweight division before Lopez was. Consider: Evander Holyfield is judged by far the best cruiserweight ever, but we still know the names Carlos DeLeon, Marvin Camel, and Ossie Ocasio, right? But most of us can't name a single pre-Lopez strawweight champion without looking it up. That's what we call dominating a weight class. ■

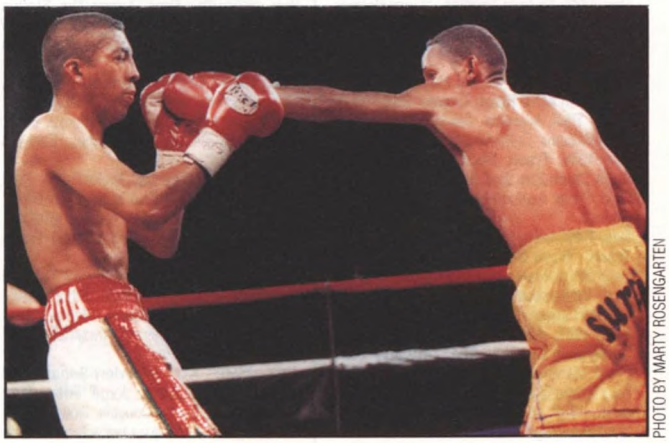


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Roberto Leyva slips a jab from Daniel Reyes

BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of *KO Magazine*, the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, *KO* has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!

June 1983: WBA Jr. Middleweight Champion Davey Moore: Bracing For Duran's Last Stand. Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Pinklon Thomas. Also: Duran-Cuevas, Hagler-Sibson.

Aug. 1983: Michael Spinks: King Of The Light Heavyweights ... But The Glory Can't Erase The Sadness. Color Pinup: Johnny Bumphus. Interview: Jones & Rappaport. Also: Jones-McCrory, Pryor-Arguello II preview, world's best fighter poll, Jeff Chandler, Mark Breland, Leon Spinks.

Oct. 1983: Is Larry Holmes Finished? Color Pinup: Greg Page. Interview: Marvis Frazier. Also: Marvin Hagler, Bobby Chacon, Jack Dempsey.

Aug. 1984: WBC Heavyweight Champion Terrible Tim Witherspoon: A Superstar Of Tomorrow? Color Pinup: Rocky Lockridge. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Marvin Hagler, Gomez-LaPorte.

Oct. 1984: Golden Boy Mark Breland: Can He Be The Next Sugar Ray? Color Pinup: Jaime Garza. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Bramble-Mancini, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Nov. 1984: Thomas Hearns: "Hagler Is Shakin' Like A Leaf On A Tree!" Color Pinup: Tim Witherspoon. Interview: Livingstone Bramble. Also: Rosario-Davis, Marlon Starling.

Jan. 1985: The Wide-Open Heavyweight Division: Who Will Take Control? Color Pinup: Bill Costello. Interview: Tyrone Crawley. Also: Harry Arroyo, Curry-Pryor, Barry McGuigan.

Feb. 1985: Gerry Cooney: How Far Can He Go This Time? Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Ray Mancini. Also: Dream fights, Hector Camacho.

March 1985: Next For Marvelous Marvin Hagler: The Only Fight That Really Matters. Color pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza, Holmes-Bonecrusher.

May 1985: Thomas Hearns: KO Fighter Of The Year. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Also: Camacho-Ramirez, Truth Williams, Year In Review.

July 1985: Aaron Pryor: Has Hawk Time Run Out? Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Greg Page. Also: Ray Mancini, James Shuler, Costello-Hatcher.

Aug. 1985: King Cobra: "Hagler-Hearns Is Done And I'm Better Than Both Of Them!" Color Pinup: John Mugabi. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Larry Holmes, Roberto Duran, DeWitt-Lee.

Dec. 1985: Pinklon Thomas: "Larry Holmes Betrayed Boxing." Color Pinup: Hagler-Mugabi. Also: Mike McCallum, Tyrell Biggs, Camacho-Ramirez.

Jan. 1986: Macho Mania! Hector Camacho Takes Aim At 10 Tough Targets. Color Pinup: Jimmy Paul. Interview: Alexis Arguello. Also: Truth Williams, Curry-McCrory.

July 1986: Tyson, McGuigan, Hagler: The Stars Catch Fire And Boxing Is Hot Again! Color Pinup: Azumah Nelson. Also: Camacho-Chavez.

Dec. 1986: Larry Holmes' Message To Mike Tyson: "Show Me You Can Kick My Butt!" Color pinup: Mark Breland. Interview: Holmes. Plus: Witherspoon-Bruno, Evander Holyfield, Cruz-McGuigan, Danny Lopez.

Feb. 1987: Upset Of The Decade: Has Honeyghan Cut Short The Curry Era? Color Pinup: Marvin Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Edwin Rosario, Hector Camacho.

Aug. 1987: Sweet Victory! Sugar Ray Humbles Hagler. Color Pinup: Leonard vs. Hagler. Interview: Evander Holyfield. Also: Spinks-Cooney preview, Donald Curry.

Oct. 1987: Greatness Beckons: When Will Mike Tyson Answer The Call? Color Pinup: Michael Olajide. Interview: Tyrell Biggs. Also: Paz-Haugen, Marvin Hagler.

Nov. 1987: Michael Spinks: The War With Tyson Is Okay With Him. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Frankie Duarte. Also: Matthew Hilton, Hagler-Czyz.

Dec. 1987: Mike Tyson: Undisputed Heavyweight King-But Is He Losing His Loyal Subjects? Color Pinup: Matthew Hilton. Interview: Barry McGuigan. Also: Aaron Pryor, Mike McCallum.

Jan. 1988: The Collapse Of A Hero: Why Breland Never Hit The Mark Of Greatness. Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Michael Nunn, Alexis Arguello, lightweights.

Feb. 1988: Pazienza & Haugen Go For Each Other's Throats. Color Pinup: Marlon Starling. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Tate-Olajide, ESPN Boxing.

May 1988: KO Exclusive-Mike Tyson, As Only Mike Tyson Knows Him. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Tyson-Spinks Poll, Michael Dokes, Virgil Hill.

July 1988: Superfight History Dictates: Don't Expect The Expected From Tyson-Spinks. Color Pinup: Roger Mayweather. Interview: Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. Also: Roberto Duran, Azumah Nelson, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Tyson-Spinks: KO's Fearless Forecast Of Superfight '88. Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Matthew Hilton. Also: Lockridge-Knight, Evander Holyfield, Lloyd Honeyghan.

Sept. 1988: Tyson-Spinks, The Aftermath—What If Tyson Wins; What If Spinks Wins? Color Pinup: Frank Tate. Interview: Marlon Starling. Also: Barry McGuigan, Simon Brown, risk-taking.

Oct. 1988: Middleweight Terrorism: Iran Bombs The Hit Man. Color Pinup: Don Lalonde. Interview: Frank Bruno. Also: Roger Mayweather, Marvin Hagler.

Jan. 1989: The Troubled Times Of Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Lloyd Honeyghan. Interview: Gil Clancy. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Jeff Fenech, Boxing's Champs.

Feb. 1989: George Foreman Is Born Again. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Bill Cayton. Also: The Olympics, Davey Hilton, John Mugabi, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1989: "I Beat Up Tyson Before, I'll Do It Again," by Carl Williams. Color Pinup: Michael Nunn. Also: Chavez-Mayweather, Brian Mitchell, Marv Albert.

Nov. 1989: The Real Duran; The Stories Behind The Legend. Color Pinup: Orlando Canizales. Interview: Mike Trainer. Also: Edwin Rosario, Rosi-Van Horn.

Feb. 1990: George Foreman Risks A Multimillion-Dollar Shot At Tyson. Color Pinup: Brian Mitchell. Interview: Riddick Bowe. Also: Simon Brown, Molina-Lopez, East vs. West.

May 1990: Chavez vs. Taylor: The Best Matchup In The Last Five Years. Color Pinup: Daniel Zaragoza. Interview: Pernell Whitaker. Also: Leonard-Hearns, Glenn McCrory, Prince Charles Williams.

June 1990: A Sugar-Free Future? Thomas Hearns Is Looking Up. Color Pinup: Glenn McCrory. Interview: Michael Moorer. Also: Matthew Hilton, Molina-Suarez, Foreman-Cooney, Camacho-Paz.

July 1990: KO Interview-Sugar Ray Leonard. Color Pinup: Jorge Paez. Also: Michael Nunn, Buster Douglas, Jibaro Perez, the Olympians.

Aug. 1990: Meldrick Taylor: Brilliance In Defeat. Color Pinup: Buster Douglas. Interview: Teddy Atlas. Also: Buddy McGirt, Dokes-Ruddock, Simon Brown.

Sept. 1990: KO Interview-Buster Douglas. Color Pinup: Macho Camacho. Also: Thomas Hearns, Nigel Benn, Greg Haugen, Boxing Hall of Fame.

Oct. 1990: Send In The Clown: Is Jorge Paez A Phenom Or A Fraud? Color Pinup: Paul Banke. Interview: Tony Lopez. Also: Chavez-Taylor II, Jesse Benavides.

Nov. 1990: The Comeback Of Mike Tyson: A Crooked Course Straight To The Top. Color Pinup: Tony Lopez. Interview: Don Dunphy. Also: Davis-Breland, Riddick Bowe, federal commission.

Dec. 1990: The Heart Of The Matter: Who Will Survive The Holyfield-Douglas War? Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Michael Carbajal, Ruelas Brothers, Best Fighter Poll.

Jan. 1991: Macho Ado About Nothing? Why Hector Camacho Wants To Be Believed. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Irving Rudd. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Orlando Canizales, Vinny Pazienza.

Feb. 1991: 10 Fighters To Fear: Boxing's Most Destructive Hitters. Color Pinup: Razor Ruddock. Interview: Ray Mercer. Also: Roberto Duran, Saoul Mamby, Mills Lane, Sugar Ray Robinson.

May 1991: Ruddock Eyes The Big Upset Of Tyson. Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Jeff Fenech. Also: Virgil Hill, Pernell Whitaker, Alex Ramos, Simon Brown, Buddy McGirt.

June 1991: Exclusive KO Interview: Evander Holyfield. Color Pinup: Raul Perez. Also: Norris-Leonard, Charles Williams, champs of 1971 vs. 1991, Chavez.

July 1991: Riddick Bowe: Is He Destined To Be Heavyweight Champ? Color Pinup: Michael Carbajal. Interview: Buddy McGirt. Also: Bobby Czyz, Buster Douglas, Mark Breland.

Aug. 1991: Desert Storm II: Will The Tyson-Ruddock Rematch Be Different? Color Pinup: Loreto Garza. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Brown-Blocker, Fenech-Nelson preview, Harold Brazier, Yuh-Carbajal.

Sept. 1991: Remember Me? I Won The Fight! What "The Real Deal" Still Has To Deal With. Color Pinup: Ray Mercer. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Larry Holmes, southpaw heavyweights, Toney-Nunn, Brown-Taylor.

Oct. 1991: Thomas Hearns Works Another Miracle! Now There Are More Hills Left To Climb. Color Pinup: Humberto Gonzalez. Interview: Mike McCallum. Also: Norris-Curry, Richard Steele, Troy Dorsey.

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson-The Only Heavyweight That Matters. Color Pinup: Thomas Hearns. Interview: Troy Dorsey. Also: Fenech-Nelson, James Toney, lost art of bodypunching.

Dec. 1991: Tyson vs. Holyfield-The Experts Analyze The Elements That Will Decide The Fight. Color Pinup: Joey Gamache. Also: Michael Moorer, Pernell Whitaker, Greg Richardson, Robert Quiroga.

Jan. 1992: The Tyson-Holyfield Showdown: An Exclusive Forecast By George Foreman. Color Pinup: Myung Woo Yuh. Also: Fenech-Nelson, TV announcers, boxing's toughest men, Toney-McCallum.

March 1992: KO Interview Mike Tyson: An In-Depth, Toe-To-Toe Talk With Boxing's Biggest Star. Color Pinup: Michael Moorer. Also: Thomas Hearns, Tracy Patterson, Larry Holmes, best fighter poll.

May 1992: Division-By-Division Faceoffs: The Best Of '92 vs. The Best Of '67. Color Pinup: James Warring. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Tommy Morrison, Bert Cooper, Gianfranco Rosi.

June 1992: If Not Tyson Or Holyfield, Then Who? Bowe? Moorer? Ruddock? Lewis? Mercer? Color Pinup: James Toney. Interview: Shelly Finkel. Also: Scotty Olson, overrated and underrated fighters, Orlin Norris, Whitaker-Pineda.

July 1992: The Title Reign of Evander Holyfield: A Reason To Hide ... Or A Reason For Pride? Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Julian Jackson. Also: Kelley-Dorsey, Nelson-Fenech, Kennedy McKinney.

Aug. 1992: Bowe Knows The Big Fight: The Top Contender Analyzes Holmes-Holyfield. Color Pinup: Julian Jackson. Interview: Michael Spinks. Also: Thomas Hearns, Blue Horizon fighting fear, Toney-Barkley, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1992: Can Tommy Morrison Punch Out The Theory ... White Men Can't Fight. Color Pinup: Welcome Ncita. Interview: Ken Norton. Also: Reggie Johnson, Jimmy Paul, McGirt-Blocker, Ali-Shavers.

Oct. 1992: The Olympics: Golden Memories ... And Golden Futures? Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Genaro Hernandez, Terry Norris.

Nov. 1992: Foreman vs. Holmes: The Fight Evander Holyfield Should Have Prevented. Color Pinup: Iran Barkley. Interview: Joe Gamache. Also: Hector Camacho, Tracy Patterson, Rudy Zavala.

Dec. 1992: The Final Four: Ruddock vs. Lewis, Holyfield vs. Bowe. Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: Whitaker-Pineda, Bowe-Coetzer, Alex Stewart, Gamache-Lopez.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: Who Will Win and Why. Color Pinup: Al Cole. Interview: Vinny Pazienza. Also: James Toney, Terrence Alli, Maurice Blocker.

March 1993: Not Just Another English Muffin: Lennox Lewis Powers His Way Toward The Title. Color Pinup: Leonzer Barber. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Reggie Johnson, Lopez-Gamache, USA Network.

May 1993: Recapping The Future: Julio Cesar Chavez' Road To 100-0. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Junior Jones. Also: Buddy McGirt, Riddick Bowe, Raul Marquez.

Dec. 1993: The KO Feud Rages On: "I Will Torture You!" Says Riddick Bowe To Lennox Lewis. Color Pinup: Kennedy McKinney. Also: Mississippi boxing, George Foreman, Yori Boy Campas , Carbajal-Kim, Morrison-Moorer.

July 1994: The Upset Epidemic! Carbajal's Conqueror: Chiquita Gonzalez. Color Pinup: Junior Jones. Interview: Rafael Ruelas. Also: Jake Rodriguez, Czyz-Hearns preview, Randall-Chavez II preview.

June 1995: The Tug-Of-War Over Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Wilfredo Vasquez. Interview: Oliver McCall. Plus: Alejandro Gonzalez, Alexis Arguello, Kostya Tszyu.

March 1996: Whether He Fights Or Not ... Tyson Is Hot! Hot!! Hot!!! Color Pinup: Marco Antonio Barrera. Interview: Jose Sulaiman. Plus: Reggie Tuur, heavyweight prospects, champion's edge.

June 1996: Destined For The Hall Of Fame Who's In, Who's Out. Color Pinup: Wayne McCullough. Interview: Cedric Kushner. Plus: Danny Romero, Mark Breland, Dynamite Dozen—the next 12.

July 1996: Awesome Again! Tyson Destroys Bruno. Color Pinup: Tyson-Bruno. Interview: Christy Martin. Plus: Chavez-De La Hoya preview, Derrick Gainer, '96 Hall of Fame inductees.

Sept. 1996: Tyson vs. Seldon. Don't Bet On This Fight Until You've Read This Story. Color Pinup: Arturo Gatti. Interview: Butterbean. Plus: Dana Rosenblatt, '92 Olympians, McGuigan-Pedroza.

Nov. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): The

KO 100. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Bob Arum. Plus: Roy Jones, Roberto Duran, Joe Cortez.

Dec. 1996: Andrew Golota—Taking The Low Road to Stardom. Color Pinup: Mark Johnson. Interview: Rock Newman. Plus: De La Hoya-Gonzalez, Chuck Bodak, bizarre endings, Chavez-Rosario.

Winter 1996: This Is War! Holyfield-Tyson Will Be Explosive ... And Short. Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bernard Hopkins. Plus: Riddick Bowe, David Reid, Holyfield-Qawi.

Jan. 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Bowe-Golota II: Hatred And Vengeance ... It's A Beautiful Thing! Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Lou Duva. Plus: Mouse Strauss, heavyweight rematches, Azumah Nelson.

Feb. 1997: KO's 1997 Wish List. Color Pinup: Ike Quartey. Interview: Naseem Hamed. Plus: David Tua, Felix Trinidad, Adolpho Washington, Bobby Czyz.

March 1997: Holyfield's Trainer Tells All! An Inside Look At The Upset Of The Year. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Plus: George Foreman, Lupe Pintor, boxing bill, Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Aug. 1997: Oscar Reaches ... But Can't Grasp The Stars. Color Pinup: Nate Miller. Interview: Hector Camacho. Plus: Norris-Trinidad preview, Hall of Fame, Angel Manfredy.

Sept. 1997: A Legitimate Grudge Match! Why Romero-Tapia Could Be The Fight Of The Year. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: David Tua. Plus: Ike Quartey, George Foreman, top promoters.

Nov. 1997: Filling In The Missing Pieces: What "The Bite" Means To Boxing. Color Pinup: Christy Martin. Interview: Jim Lampley. Plus: Vince Phillips, British prospects, Iran Barkley.

Dec. 1997: Johnny Tapia Outshines Danny Romero: The Defining Moment In A "Crazy Life." Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Frans Botha. Plus: Lewis-Akiwande, Don King, Charles Brewer.

Holiday 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Holyfield-Moorer II: Can Evander Avenge His Ugliest Defeat? Color Pinup: Vince Phillips. Interview: Mills Lane. Plus: Roy Jones, Baby Jake Matlala, Boxing 2000.

Jan. 1998: De La Hoya Humbles The Macho Man: "Oscar's The Best I've Ever Fought." Color Pinup: William Guthrie. Interview: Mark Johnson. Plus: Johnny Tapia, Pinklon Thomas, defense.

Feb. 1998: Is Lennox Lewis The World's Best Heavyweight? Color Pinup: Charles Brewer. Interview: Marc Ratner. Plus: Otis Grant, Arturo Gatti.

March 1998: Evander Holyfield: For The Real Deal, Lewis Is No Big Deal. Color Pinup: Lou Del Valle. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Plus: David Izon, Meldrick Taylor, rapid weight loss.

May 1998: Living Up To The Hype: Sometimes They Do ... Sometimes They Don't. Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Best Of ... (Part III). Plus: Naseem Hamed, Marty Denkin, women's boxing.

June 1998: Lewis vs. Holyfield: Why The Fight Of The Year Isn't Going To Happen. Color Pinup: Evander Holyfield. Interview: Eddie Futch. Plus: Hector Lizarraga, pain, Head-To-Head review.

Aug. 1998: Lewis Bombs Out Briggs: Would The WBC Champ Do This To Holyfield? Color Pinup: Keith Mullings. Interview: Shane Mosley. Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Marco Antonio Barrera, Roberto Garcia.

Sept. 1998: Can Mike Tyson Make A Successful Comeback? Sugar Ray Leonard Has The Answer. Color Pinup: Michael Grant. Interview: Brad Jacobs. Plus: Naseem Hamed, Wayne McCullough, Kirk Johnson.

Oct. 1998: The Ultimate Fantasy Card. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: Roy Jones. Plus: Brendan Ingle, NYPD boxing, prospect blueprint.

Nov. 1998 The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Tim Austin. Plus: Cesar Bazan, Spencer Oliver, Bobby Czyz.

Dec. 1998: Winning Fights Is Easier Than Winning Fans: Why Can't We Appreciate Roy Jones? Color Pinup: Tim Austin. Interview: Michael Grant. Plus: Christy Martin, Ali Reform Act, one-hit wonders.

Holiday 1998: Toe-To-Toe With The Top 10: Where Does Tyson Fit In? Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Inteview: Larry Hazzard. Plus: Evander Holyfield, junior middleweights.

Jan. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Oscar Eliminates Chazez ... Now The Real Fights Begin! Color Pinup: Yory Boy Campas. Interview: William Joppy. Plus: Mark Johnson, U.S.A. vs. the world.

Feb. 1999: Holyfield & Lewis: Did They Hurt Themselves Before They Could Hurt Each Other? Color Pinup: Andrew Golota. Interview: Angel Manfredy. Plus: Mismatches, Bobby Czyz on watching fights.

March 1999: Exposed! Is Hamed Really Hector Camacho In Disguise? Color Pinup: Mike Tyson. Interview: Joe Frazier. Plus: Zab Judah, Vuyani Bungu, Frankie Randall.

May 1999: The Tyson Of Old ... Or Just An Old Tyson? Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Fernando Vargas. Plus: Antonio Diaz, Sumya Anani, standing eight-count.

June 1999: Will Tyson's Jail Time Be A Career Killer? Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Floyd Mayweather. Plus: Roy Jones, 1999 Hall of Fame, stagnation.

July 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: The Fight The Public Demands ... But Is It Going To Happen? Color Pinup: David Tua. Interview: Tommy Brooks. Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Tony Marshall, best of the century.

Aug. 1999: Lewis vs. Holyfield II: Should We Expect Anything Different Next Time? Color Pinup: Fernando Vargas. Interview: David Reid. Plus: Ibeabuchi-Byrd, Melissa Salamone.

Sept. 1999: Mayeather vs. Mosley: Who's The Future Of Boxing? Color Pinup: James Page. Interview: J Russell Peltz. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Thomas Hearns, Angel Manfredy.

Oct. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Felix Trinidad. Interview: Jake LaMotta. Plus: Tony Ayala, Erik Morales, Junior Jones.

Nov. 1999: De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: "It's Gonna Come Down To Who The Hell Wants It Most!" Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Arturo Gatti. Plus: Roy Jones, Sugar Shane Mosley, Vassily Jirov.

Dec. 1999: David Reid & Fernando Vargas: Olympic Teammates On A Collision Course! Color Pinup: Zab Judah. Interview: Ike Ibeabuchi. Plus: Vitaly Klitschko, Antonio Tarver, Mike Tyson.

Holiday 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Lewis-Holyfield II: Why We Demand A Knockout! Color Pinup: Sharmba Mitchell. Interview: Paulie Ayala. Plus: James Toney, James Page & Terronn Millett, decade review.

Jan. 2000: Fool's Gold? Trinidad May Have Tarnished Oscar's Image Forever! Color Pinup: Paulie Ayala. Interview: Tony Ayala Jr. Plus: David Reid, Johnny Nelson.

Feb. 2000: Breakout 2000: Who's Going To Lead The Way In Y2K? Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bob Arum. Plus: Shane Mosley, Wise-Chavez, Iran Barkley.

March 2000: Mike Tyson: "I'm Tired Of This Crap!" So Are We, Mike! Color Pinup: Vernon Forrest. Interview: James Page. Plus: Erik Morales & Naseem Hamed, Diego Corrales, women's boxing.

May 2000: Michael Grant vs. Lennox Lewis—25 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Paul Spadafora. Interview: Dan Goossen. Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Johnny Tapia, southpaws.

June 2000: Lewis vs. Grant: Who Will Win ... And Why. Color Pinup: Vitaly Klitschko. Interview: Sharmba Mitchell. Plus: Shane Mosley, David Izon, 2000 Hall of Fame.

July 2000: Today's Fighters, Tomorrow's Hall Of Famers. Color Pinup: Keith Holmes. Interview: Shane Mosley. Plus: Zab Judah, Morales-Barrera, Wayne Braithwaite.

Aug. 2000: Mosley Prepares For Oscar: "It Will Be Like The First Round Of Hagler-Hearns. Color Pinup: Erik Morales. Interview: Chris Byrd. Plus: Vargas-Quartey, Thomas Hearns, Felix Trinidad, common sense vs. cowardice.

Sept. 2000: Now Vargas Is Ready For Trinidad & De La Hoya. Color Pinup: Erik Morales. Interview: Chris Byrd. Plus: Trinidad vs. all-time greats, Thomas Hearns, common sense vs. cowardice.

Oct. 2000 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Floyd Mayweather. Interview: Stevie Johnston. Plus: Clifford Etienne, over-hyped heavyweights.

Nov. 2000: Sugar Rush! Mosley Achieves Superstardom At Oscar's Expense. Color Pinup: Lennox Lewis. Interview: Jay Larkin. Plus: David Tua, Oleg Maskaev, Ben Tackie.

Dec. 2000: Mike Tyson vs. Lennox Lewis: 15 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Interview: Frank Maloney. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Bronco McKart, our heroes' heroes.

[FULL-COLOR BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2001]

Feb. 2001: Fernando Vargas' Internal Battle: If He Can't Win It, He Can't Beat Trinidad. Interview: Evander Holyfield. Plus: Derrick Gainer, Roy Jones, Naseem Hamed.

April 2001: Lewis Is Too Much For Tua ... But Could Tyson Do Any Better? Interview: Max Kellerman. Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Wladimir Klitschko.

June 2001: Trinidad-Jones: Superfight Or Mismatch? Interview: Virgil Hill. Plus: Mayweather-Corrales, Paul Ingle, Davey Hilton, Tyson's relationship with Vargas, Judah, and Mayweather.

Aug. 2001: Sugar Shane Mosley: Too Sweet For The Bad Boy Era? Interview: Richard Steele. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Roy Jones, Jesus Chavez.

Oct. 2001: Tito Power—From Fans To Foes ... Everyone's Feeling It! Interview: Lou DiBella. Plus: Hasim Rahman, Vargas-Rivera, F.I.S.T.

Dec. 2001: Laila Ali: The Fighter, The Sex Symbol ... The Future Of Women's Boxing? Interview: Laila Ali. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Tim Austin, Manny Pacquiao, Hector Camacho Jr.

Feb. 2002: Bernard Hopkins: "I Am The American Dream. I Am The American Story" Interview: Wladimir Klitschko. Plus: Omar Sheika, Vernon Forrest, Juan Lazcano.

April 2002: After Hitting Rock Bottom ... Lennox Is Back On The Path To Greatness. Interview: Duva Boxing. Plus: Zab Judah, Mike Tyson, Thomas Tate.

❑ JUN/83	❑ AUG/88	❑ DEC/91	❑ MAR/97	❑ NOV/99
❑ OCT/83	❑ SEP/88	❑ JAN/92	❑ AUG/97	❑ DEC/99
❑ AUG/84	❑ OCT/88	❑ MAR/92	❑ NOV/97	❑ HOL/99
❑ OCT/84	❑ JAN/89	❑ MAY/92	❑ DEC/97	❑ JAN/00
❑ NOV/84	❑ FEB/89	❑ JUN/92	❑ HOL/97	❑ FEB/00
❑ JAN/85	❑ SEP/89	❑ JUL/92	❑ JAN/98	❑ MAR/00
❑ FEB/85	❑ NOV/89	❑ AUG/92	❑ FEB/98	❑ MAY/00
❑ MAR/85	❑ FEB/90	❑ SEP/92	❑ MAR/98	❑ JUN/00
❑ MAY/85	❑ MAY/90	❑ OCT/92	❑ MAY/98	❑ JUL/00
❑ JUL/85	❑ JUN/90	❑ NOV/92	❑ JUN/98	❑ AUG/00
❑ AUG/85	❑ JUL/90	❑ DEC/92	❑ AUG/98	❑ SEP/00
❑ DEC/85	❑ AUG/90	❑ JAN/93	❑ SEP/98	❑ OCT/00
❑ JAN/86	❑ SEP/90	❑ MAR/93	❑ OCT/98	❑ NOV/00
❑ JUL/86	❑ OCT/90	❑ MAY/93	❑ NOV/98	❑ DEC/00
❑ DEC/86	❑ NOV/90	❑ JUL/94	❑ DEC/98	❑ FEB/01
❑ FEB/87	❑ DEC/90	❑ JUN/95	❑ HOL/98	❑ APR/01
❑ AUG/87	❑ JAN/91	❑ MAR/96	❑ JAN/99	❑ JUN/01
❑ SEP/87	❑ FEB/91	❑ JUN/96	❑ FEB/99	❑ AUG/01
❑ OCT/87	❑ MAY/91	❑ JUL/96	❑ MAR/99	❑ OCT/01
❑ NOV/87	❑ JUN/91	❑ SEP/96	❑ MAY/99	❑ DEC/01
❑ DEC/87	❑ JUL/91	❑ NOV/96	❑ JUN/99	❑ FEB/02
❑ JAN/88	❑ AUG/91	❑ DEC/96	❑ JUL/99	❑ APR/02
❑ FEB/88	❑ SEP/91	❑ WIN/96	❑ AUG/99	
❑ MAY/88	❑ OCT/91	❑ JAN/97	❑ SEP/99	
❑ JUL/88	❑ NOV/91	❑ FEB/97	❑ OCT/99	

KO MAGAZINE

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 EACH

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____
as payment in full. PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ **Apt.** _____

_____

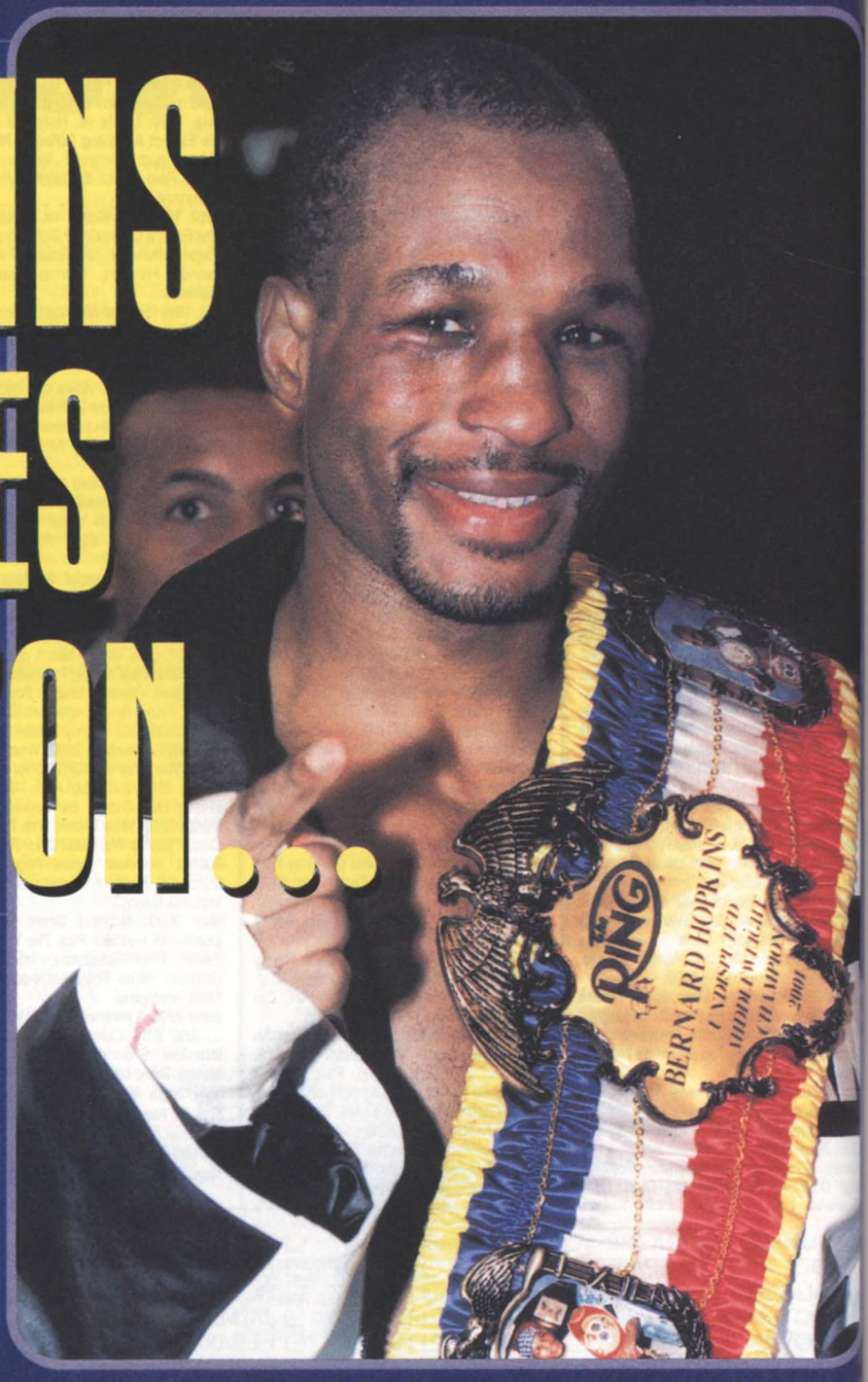
City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and $3 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only.
Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery
In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice: _____

5882/09-01/4c

HOPKINS TOPPLES MONZON... WITHOUT LAYING A GLOVE ON HIM!



Move over Monzon. Hopkins is now number one in middleweight title defenses after retaining the title for the 15th consecutive time. Not bad for a 37-year-old ex-con who had difficulty getting the respect he deserves until beating Felix Trinidad last year.

By Nigel Collins

You can't help but wonder what Carlos Monzon would have thought if he could have been at the Sovereign Center in Reading, Pennsylvania, on February 2, the night Bernard Hopkins broke the middleweight legend's long-standing record for title defenses. It's unlikely the arro gant hard-ass would have been pleased and if he could come back from the grave for just one more fight, you can bet Monzon would go gunning for Hopkins. That's the sort of guy he was supremely confident with a maniacal edge—just like "The Executioner."

While fundamentally different a

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

On the ropes: Slick southpaw Carl Daniels proved an elusive target, but whenever Hopkins maneuvered him into the ropes, he punished his challenger with powershots. It was the latest in a string of fights in which Hopkins arguably won every round.

men, Monzon and Hopkins have a lot in common as fighters. Both are old-school pros who toiled long and hard before finally hitting the big time. They also both came from troubled backgrounds, but that is where their paths diverge. After a stint in the slammer, Hopkins became a walking advertisement for rehabilitation. Monzon, on the other hand, eventually surrendered to the dark side, and spent the last years of his life serving a prison sentence for manslaughter.

Part of Monzon's problem was his addiction to the celebrity lifestyle that surrounds boxing's biggest stars. He was just as popular in Europe as he was with his faithful fans back home in Argentina, and spent a lot of time partying with the rich and famous. True, Hopkins isn't the sort likely to fall prey to that kind of distraction, but he'd been on a breakneck public appearance blitz since knocking out Felix Trinidad, and it's not uncommon for fighters to have a letdown after a huge win.

Virtually nobody expected challenger Carl Daniels to win, of course, but there was a possibility that the veteran cutie could make the champ look bad, especially if Hopkins had lost his edge on the banquet circuit. Never fear. Hopkins has been scrounging around the edges of superstardom for so long, he wasn't about to do anything stupid. Even though contract negotiations dragged on until the last minute and Don King didn't find a venue until two weeks before the first bell, Hopkins was both physically and mentally ready to break Monzon's record.

Boxing records are funny things; sometimes they mean a lot, sometimes they don't. Nobody outside of Germany, for example, cares much about Sven Ottke's record-setting 12 defenses of the super middleweight crown. That's because the splitting and proliferation of so-called world titles has cheapened records the same way it's devalued champions and championships.

There are, nonetheless, a handful of records that have taken on almost mythical proportions—Joe Louis' 25 defenses of the heavyweight title, Archie Moore's knockout total, the biggest gate of all-time. Then there are a series of lesser but still meaningful records, and near the top of this second tier are the most significant of division-defense records.

The middleweight record in this category is particularly prestigious for a number of reasons. To start with, the 160-pound class is one of the sport's eight traditional weight divisions, and throughout history it has been the most popular division below heavyweight. Then there's the length of time the record had stood. It's been almost a quarter of a century since Monzon tallied his 14th and final defense in July '77.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

The capacity crowd gives "The Executioner" a rousing welcome. It was a testament to Hopkins' growing popularity that he was able to sell out the venue in only two weeks.

How big of a deal is 14 middleweight defenses? Well, the great Sugar Ray Robinson didn't come close. He managed only *three* in five reigns. Third behind Hopkins and Monzon is Marvin Hagler with 12. It's all about consistency, and Hopkins has been nothing if n consistent since winning the I belt in April '95.

If the spirit of Monzon w looking on, it probably wou have rubbed its eyes with disb lief when Hopkins came out his dressing room wearing white mask. He looked more li Mil Mascaras—or maybe a spa alien—than an executioner. B the old champ would have reco nized the deafening recepti Hopkins got from the capaci crowd of 8,243.

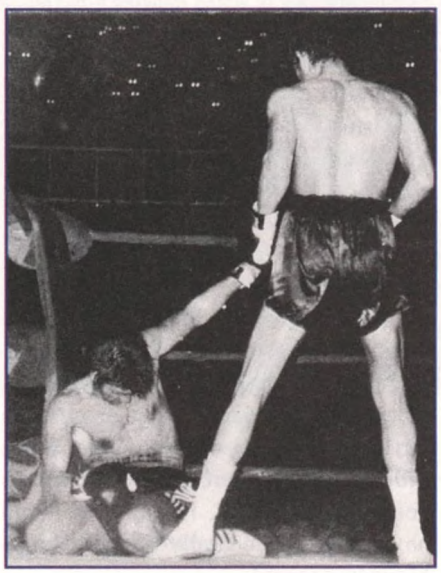
Hopkins, who has really on come into his own as a f favorite since the Trinidad fig played to the crowd, giving h trademark "X" sign, as well the increasingly popular thro slashing gesture. But if Daniels w spooked by any of it, it didn't show. H just paced back and forth a bit in h

MONZON'S TITLE DEFENSES

Monzon won the middleweight championship by knocking out Nino Benvenuti in the 12th round, November 7, 1970. His record was 71-3-9 (48) going into his first defense, a rematch with Benvenuti. Monzon would never lose another fight.

KO 3 Nino Benvenuti, Monte Carlo, Monaco, May 8, 1971: It took Monzon less than three rounds to confirm his superiority over the Italian. After a knockdown in the second and another in the third, Benvenuti's manager threw in the towel. The ex-champ cried in the ring afterward and never fought again.

KO 14 Emile Griffith, Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 25, 1971: The 33-year-old Griffith, who hadn't held a world title since '67, still had enough left to make it highly competitive for the first 12 rounds. But Griffith was being tagged repeatedly and was virtually helpless when the ref rescued him with 28 seconds to go in the 14th.



Monzon conquers Benvenuti

KO 5 Denny Moyer, Rome, Italy, March 4, 1972: Fans threw debris into the ring when the ref stopped the fight in the closing seconds of the fifth. Although he was floored by a bodyshot in the fourth, the American had boxed well early, and was in no serious dang at the end.

KO 13 Jean-Claude Bouttier, Pari France, June 17, 1972: The 40,0 French fans at Colombes Stadium hop that the challenger would become the fi of their countrymen since Marcel Cerd to win the middleweight crown. But af being decked in the sixth and staggered the 12th, the exhausted Bouttier quit in h corner.

KO 5 Tom Bogs, Copenhagen, De mark, August 19, 1972: Boggs made t mistake of cutting Monzon in the four and paid the price when the champ floor him three times the next round for an aut matic TKO victory.

W 15 Bennie Briscoe, Buenos Aire November 11, 1972: Briscoe, who had he Monzon to a draw in '67, hurt the cham with a right in the ninth, but Monzon su vived to win a unanimous decision.

corner, an unconcerned look on his face. He'd had more than 50 pro fights, and wasn't too concerned about the other guy's shtick or an unfriendly crowd.

Daniels, who had been inactive for more than 13 months while sitting on his number-one IBF ranking, is no Trinidad. But the challenger's southpaw style and crafty defense is predicated on shutting down the other guy's offense. And even though his best weight was six pounds south, where he briefly reigned as WBA titlist, the 32-year-old Daniels is still good at doing what he does.

Fans expecting the drama and spectacular ending that made the Trinidad fight so special would be disappointed. Where "Tito" had played into Hopkins' hands by going after him, Daniels was basically in survival mode from the start. He wanted to avoid serious engagement, while hoping to frustrate Hopkins and catch him with counter lefts.

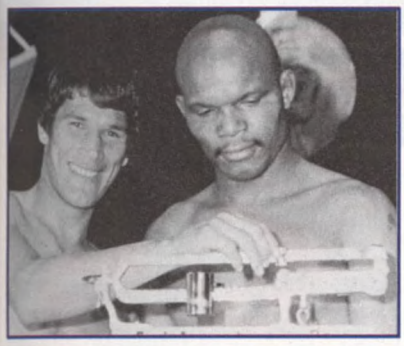
But it was nothing that Hopkins hadn't seen before, and he knew exactly how to deal with a slickster like Daniels. The champion applied grinding pressure, digging hurtful shots into Daniels' soft-looking midsection at least a couple of times most every round. And every now and then, he'd also connect with a crisp right or left hook to the head. It was a lot like watching a top-notch mechanic take apart a transmission—fascinating but far from thrilling.

The fans attempted to liven things up with "Hopkins" chants, and when that didn't work, they tried booing. But what the uninitiated didn't appreciate was that Hopkins was going about his job the smart way. Sure, he could have probably charged in recklessly and whacked Daniels out a few rounds sooner than he eventually did, but he would have taken a lot more punishment doing so. And for all his tough talk, that's not what Hopkins is about. He knows it's different strokes for difference folks and that the best way to cook Daniels' goose was slowly. Hopkins is also 37 years old and wants to have five more title defenses. With such long-range plans in mind, it's crucial that he rations himself prudently.

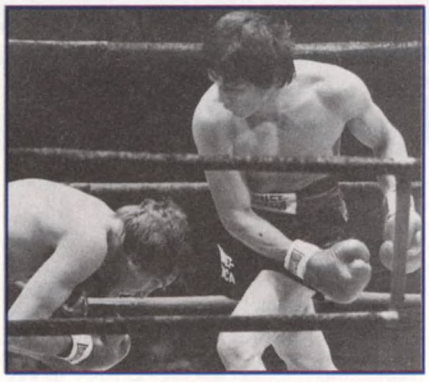
The only suspense was whether or not Hopkins would stop Daniels. The accumulative effects of the methodical beatdown began to catch up with the challenger in the ninth, and Hopkins sent him reeling across the ring with a series of left hooks. Daniels survived the crisis, but was rapidly losing interest, and after a barrage by Hopkins to close the 10th, Daniels, 47-4-1 (30), told trainer Tommy Brooks, "I don't have no more."

Referee Frank Cappuccino (USA) stopped the fight at Brooks' request, and the record passed to Hopkins via TKO. If Monzon booed, nobody heard him above the happy din at the Sovereign Center.

Comparatively speaking, Hopkins, who emerged with only a few minor



Monzon and Briscoe weigh in for title tilt



Bouttier under fire in his second challenge

Monzon drills Valdes during his final fight

W 15 Emile Griffith, Monte Carlo, June 2, 1973: Griffith got off to a good start again, but faded after the 10th, which allowed Monzon to finish the stronger of the two and take a unanimous decision.

W 15 Jean-Claude Bouttier, Paris, September 29, 1973: The Frenchman did marginally better the second time, but was knocked down in each of the final three rounds and lost a unanimous decision.

KO 7 Jose Napoles, Paris, February 9, 1974: As good as he was at 147 pounds, welter champ Napoles simply wasn't strong enough to handle Monzon, and took a nasty pounding before it was stopped.

KO 7 Tony Mundine, Buenos Aires, October 5, 1974: Briscoe had already mutilated Mundine earlier in the year, so it was no surprise when Monzon did likewise.

KO 10 Tony Licata, New York, New York, June 30, 1975: This was Monzon's only fight in the United States, and he looked every bit the future Hall of Famer overwhelming the game but outgunned Licata at Madison Square Garden.

KO 5 Gratien Tonna, Paris, December 13, 1975: Monzon toyed with Tonna for four rounds, then knocked him out with a right to the side of the head in the fifth.

W 15 Rodrigo Valdes, Monte Carlo, June 26, 1976: Monzon regained the WBC portion of the title by withstanding the Colombian challenger's fierce attack. He cemented the decision with a 14th-round knockdown.

W 15 Rodrigo Valdes, Monte Carlo, July 30, 1977, : Although Monzon deserved the decision, Valdes cut his nose, knocked him down in the second, and convinced the champ it was time to hang up his gloves.

abrasions, looked a lot better than Monzon did at the end of his final defense, a bitterly contested 15-round decision over Rodrigo Valdes. Monzon, then almost 35, knew it was time to go. He retired and never came back, his legacy seemingly assured. Now Hopkins has eclipsed him and hopes to leave a mark that will stand even longer than his predecessor's.

"Records are important," Hopkins told the *Philadelphia Daily News*. "Think about when Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa were chasing Roger Maris' home run record. Boxing is no different ... I want to get 20 defenses. It might be 40, 50 years before someone breaks my record."

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. Now that Hopkins, 41-2-1 (30) with 1 no-contest, has nudged past Monzon, it's worth taking a closer look at the similarity and differences between what these two great champions have accomplished. Some, Monzon surely among them, would scoff at Hopkins' claim, and point out that Monzon held the true championship throughout his reign, while Hopkins didn't become the real deal until he beat Trinidad. There's merit to this argument, but its supporters shouldn't forget that the WBC made Valdes its titleholder in May '74, and that he held its belt until Monzon beat him the first time, in June '76. As the three defenses Monzon made in between count toward his total, it's only fair to count all of Hopkins' too.

For those interested in a closer examination of the individual title defenses of both champions, we have provided an accompanying set of sidebars *(pages 54 & 56)*. But it's also instructive to look at their records qualitatively as well. Of Monzon's 14 defenses, seven were against men who held world titles at some point in their careers, and three of them are now enshrined in the International Boxing Hall of Fame. There are but four titlists among Hopkins' title fight victims, with only Trinidad definitely headed for the Hall, and maybe Simon Brown if you really stretch it, which seems to be the case in Canasto these days.

Still, Monzon had some easy touche especially the Europeans he fought Challengers Tom Bogs and Gratie Tonna weren't much better than Gle Johnson and Bo James, and would hav probably lost to Hopkins victims such a Antwun Echols and Keith Holme Monzon also caught some of the bigge names on his resume when they were o the way down. Emile Griffith was pas his best, even though he gave Monzo two tough fights, and Jose Napoles wa also worn out, and was a welterweigh besides.

During the South American strong man's prime, Philly's Bennie Briscoe one of Hopkins' hometown inspiration gave Monzon arguably his toughe fight. And Briscoe was a better fighte than anybody Hopkins has beaten excep Trinidad.

And so it goes. The comparisons ar practically endless, but if Hopkins ca achieve his goal of 20 successful defen

HOPKINS' TITLE DEFENSES

Hopkins won the vacant IBF middleweight title by knocking out Segundo Mercado in the seventh round, April 29, 1995. He was 27-2-1 (20) when he made his first defense.

KO 1 Steve Frank, Phoenix, Arizona, January 27, 1996: It was all over in 24 seconds! It took us longer to type that sentence!

Frank falls in the first

KO 4 Joe Lipsey, Las Vegas, Nevada, March 16, 1996: Some thought that undefeated lefthanded puncher Lipsey had a legitimate shot at winning, but he didn't. Hopkins blew him away with perhaps the most devastating kayo of his career. Lipsey never fought again.

KO 11 Bo James, Atlantic City, New Jersey, July 16, 1996: This was fringe contender James' big chance, and he gave it a courageous try, but was badly outclassed and eventually worn down and stopped.

KO 7 John David Jackson, Shreveport, Louisiana, April 19, 1997: The former WBA titlist had taught Hopkins how to fight southpaws when they used to be gym mates. Big mistake. "The Executioner" dominated the slick lefty before the fight was called off.

Hopkins has Jackson ready to go

KO 11 Glen Johnson, Indio California, July 20, 1997: Johnson migh be a journeyman now, but he was unde feated in 32 pro fights when Hopkin handed him his first defeat.

W 12 Andrew Council, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, November 18 1997: Although Hopkins won wide on th scorecards, Council gave him a tough evening. Even so, Hopkins' strength an lead right hands allowed him to finish wel on top.

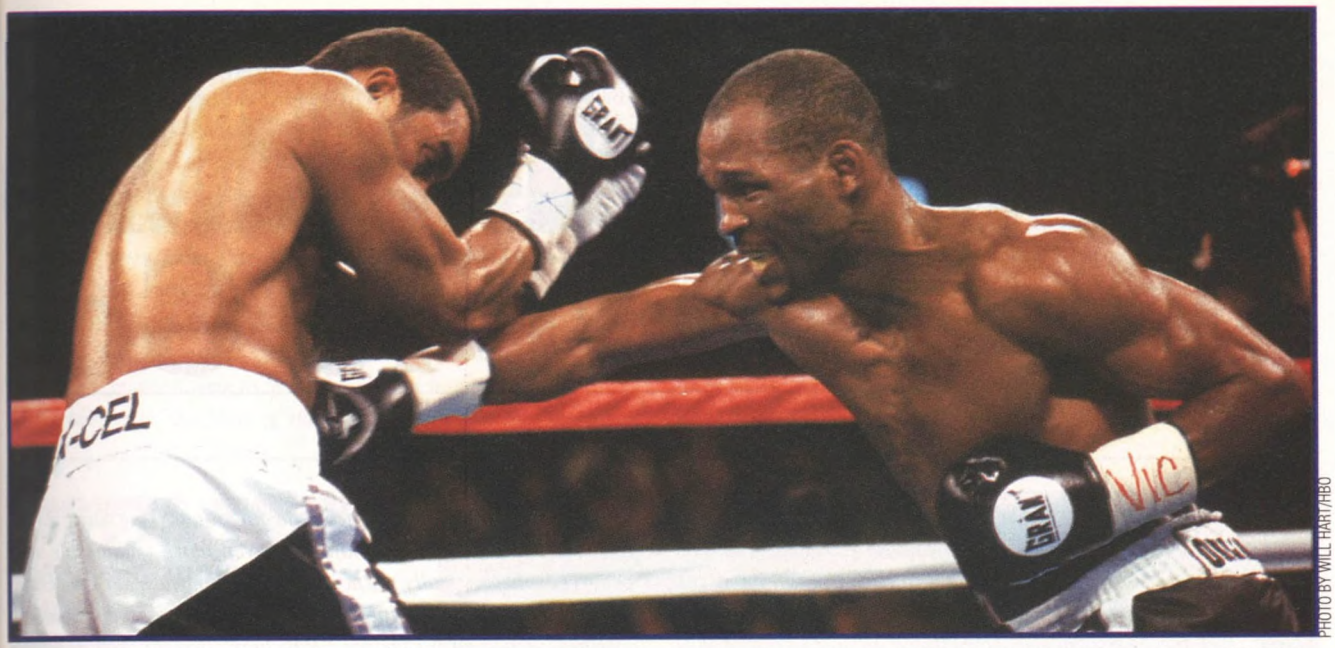


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

It was Hopkins' body attack, as much as anything else, that eventually led to his TKO victory at the end of the 10th round. Daniels, a former titleholder at junior middleweight, quit on his stool, telling his corner he had nothing left.

es, he'll be in territory previously occupied exclusively by Harry Greb, Robinson, Monzon, and Hagler—the middleweight Mount Rushmore.

It sounds crazy. But so does the whole unlikely saga of Hopkins' ascension from the penitentiary to the penthouse. How surprised should we be if he pulls it off? After all, he's done everything he said he would so far, and that has to count for something. Even Monzon would have to agree with that. ■

KO 6 Simon Brown, Atlantic City, January 31, 1998: A shameful mismatch that should never have been sanctioned.

No-Contest 4 Robert Allen, Las Vegas, August 28, 1998: Referee Mills Lane used a little too much force breaking the combatants, and Hopkins tumbled out of the ring, hurt his ankle, and was unable to go on. As Hopkins both entered and left the ring as IBF titlist, it is considered a successful defense.

KO 7 Robert Allen, Washington, D.C., February 6, 1999: Angered by allegations that he took the easy way out the first time, Hopkins gave Allen a one-sided beating.

W 12 Antwun Echols, Miami, Florida, December 12, 1999: Hopkins showed off his underrated boxing skills, turning back a determined challenge by the vicious-hitting Echols. The champ was always in control, but could never relax.

W 12 Syd Vanderpool, Indianapolis, Indiana, May 13, 2000: A sloppy, foul-

Echols on the receiving end

filled affair that featured more pratfalls than a bad wrestling match.

KO 10 Antwun Echols, Las Vegas, December 1, 2000: Hopkins could have opted to win via DQ after Echols body-slammed him and dislocated his shoulder. Instead, the champ chose to battle on, and was rewarded with an emphatic kayo victory.

W 12 Keith Holmes, New York, New York, April 14, 2001: Added the WBC belt with a unanimous decision over defensive-minded Holmes in the first bout of Don King's Middleweight World Championship Series.

KO 12 Felix Trinidad, New York, September 29, 2001: Turned in a career-defining performance, totally outboxing and outpunching the highly favored Trinidad to become the first undisputed middleweight champion since Marvin Hagler.

Hopkins ends Trinidad's unbeaten strerak

KO 10 Carl Daniels, Reading, Pennsylvania, February 2, 2002: Gradually sapped Daniels' strength with body attack and established a new division record with his 15th consecutive defense.

THE UPSET EPIDEMIC

Who's Next To Go?

By Eric Raskin

Many of us thought when we turned over the calendars to begin the year 2002 that the upset epidemic was over. There was no logical reason to believe that, mind you; upsets don't care what year it is. But so many boxing writers called 2001 the Year of the Upset that we all just assumed 2002 couldn't also be the Year of the Upset. How redundant and unoriginal would that be?

Apparently, the upset doesn't care about originality or overkill, because in the first major bout of 2002, 7-1 underdog Vernon Forrest beat the crap out of pound-for-pound king Sugar Shan Mosley. Then, three weeks later, an even more unthinkable upse occurred when virtually unknown Mexican journeyman Juan Carl Rubio doggedly took apart the young man touted as the be prospect in boxing, Francisco "Panchito" Bojado. And in betwee those two stunners, the New England Patriots became the bigge underdogs to win the Super Bowl since Joe Namath's Jets, indica ing that the upset bug is contagious and is spreading to other sport

It all began on April 7, 2001, when underdog Marco Anton

The last 12 months have featured one major upset after another in boxing, including (clockwise from top left) Marco Antonio Barrera's dominating w over Naseem Hamed, Bernard Hopkins' resounding kayo of Felix Trinidad, Kostya Tszyu's two-round shocker against Zab Judah, and Vernon Forrest thorough whipping of Shane Mosley. Is another superstar destined to fall soon?

Barrera knocked the narcissism out of Prince Naseem Hamed with startling ease. Two weeks later, Hasim Rahman pulled off an upset for the ages when he flattened heavyweight champ Lennox Lewis in South Africa. And later in the year, two major title unification bouts both ended with solid favorites losing their undefeated records, as Felix Trinidad took a beatdown from Bernard Hopkins, and Zab Judah crash-landed against Kostya Tszyu. Throw in Jameel McCline-Michael Grant, Fres Oquendo-Cliff Etienne, Chris Byrd-David Tua, Rafael Marquez-Mark Johnson, William Abelyan-Guty Espadas, Luis Lizarraga-Tontcho Tontchev, and Sam Hill-David Reid, and you can see why '01 was perhaps the greatest time to be a longshot in boxing history.

But obviously, the Year of the Upset didn't end on December 31. Perhaps it will instead end on the one-year anniversary of Barrera-Hamed. Or maybe it won't end at all because these aren't really upsets, they're just miscalculations from fans and experts alike who fall prey to certain fighters' hype and who fail to recognize how styles make fights. If that's the case, there may be more superstars fated to fall. It's just a matter of taking on the wrong opponent, letting your press clippings go to your head, or simply not being as great as everyone thinks you are.

This article focuses on six fighters who fall into one (or more) of those categories. After Lewis, Trinidad, Judah, Mosley, and Bojado, who's next? Although nothing's easy to predict anymore, we think we have some solid guesses as to who the next casualty of the upset epidemic may be.

KOSTYA TSZYU

Undisputed Junior Welterweight Champion

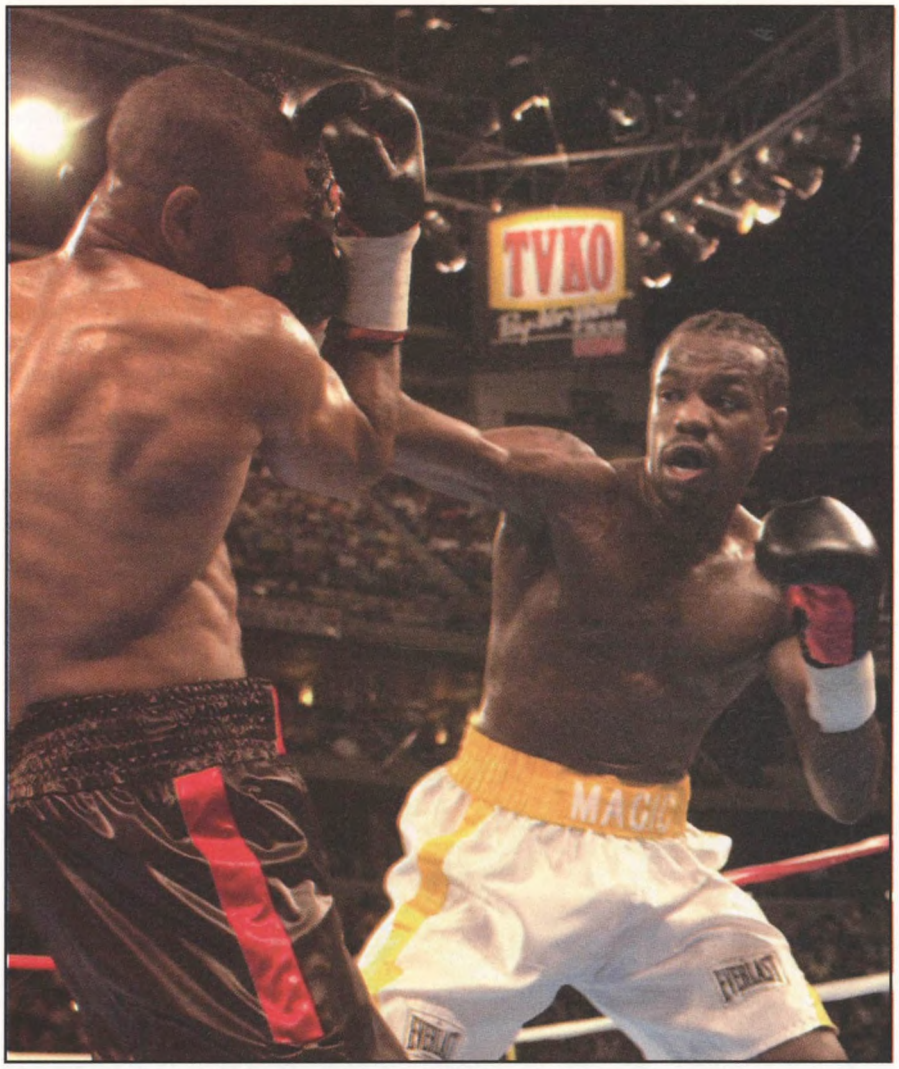
Tszyu's inclusion on this list is not meant in any way to slight the awesome work he's done lately. His wins over Zab Judah and Sharmba Mitchell to unify the 140-pound title were both tremendous achievements. Going a bit farther back, Tszyu's total dominance over the faded duo of Julio Cesar Chavez and Miguel Angel Gonzalez was noteworthy. Tszyu is the king of his weight class at the moment, and deservedly so. But the fact remains that he is eminently beatable against the right kind of opponent.

Look at some of his fights against slick, highly skilled fighters, and notice the way his mediocre defensive reflexes got him into trouble. Judah had him reeling in the first round of their fight. Mitchell was outboxing Tszyu until the Russian-born Aussie's roughhousing tactics and Mitchell's gimpy knee forced a surrender from the defending WBA titlist. Light-hitting but adept Oktay Urkal took Tszyu the distance in a surprisingly close fight. Quick-fisted Diobelys Hurtado had him on the floor twice. And, of course, well-schooled Vince Phillips caught Tszyu with enough hard shots to stop him in 1997's Upset of the Year.

So who out there might Tszyu fight that has the style to beat him? For starters, there's Mitchell and Judah, both of whom would have realistic chances in rematches (though Judah, in particular, probably wouldn't come in as a heavy enough underdog for it to qualify as a major upset). Then there's DeMarcus Corley,

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Tszyu unified all three belts at junior welterweight during a career-defining 2001 campaign, but he remains a flawed and vulnerable champion. His next defense, against Ben Tackie, looks like a toughie.



Jones had his share of problems with the clever and confident Eric Harding in September 2000, and at age 33, the light heavyweight king may be ripe for an upset loss. Rematches with either Harding or Bernard Hopkins could pose problems for Jones.

who has shown flashes of the skill, quickness, and power necessary to pull it off. Though "Chop Chop" has shown troubling inconsistency, he would be a fairly live underdog against Tszyu.

Then there are two guys who don't fit the mold stylistically, but who could beat anyone—Tszyu included—if they can land the right punch. One is Randall Bailey, who burst onto the scene a few years ago by knocking out Bolillo Gonzalez with a single left hook, and who recently put Demetrio Ceballos to sleep with one crushing right. With power like that in either fist, no one is safe. And then there's Ben "Wonder" Tackie, the IBF mandatory who is in line for a shot at Tszyu on May 18. Tackie, like Tszyu, can be outboxed. But we've never seen him outslugged, and both his chin and his punch may actually be better than the pig-tailed champion's. If Tszyu elects to box, the odds, which would be firmly in his favor, should hold up. If he chooses to trade leather, Wonder Tackie may leave him wondering where his title went.

ROY JONES
Undisputed Light Heavyweight Champion

There are a lot of theories as to why Shane Mosley lost to Vernon Forrest, and one of them says that Sugar Shane grew a bit soft and overconfident from facing three straight easy marks prior to taking on Forrest. And if Mosley can be adversely affected by going a year-and-a-half without a challenge, certainly it follows that light heavy king Jones isn't getting any sharper by facing no-hopers for the better part of the last seven years.

Jones isn't entirely to blame for tha he's so gifted that even quality fighter such as Reggie Johnson and Virgil Hi have proven unable to push him at all. B the fact remains that if Jones ever ste into the ring with a dangerous foe aga being untested for so long makes him n as sure a bet to win as his supporters m believe.

Just look at what happened when Jon fought Eric Harding in September '00. H took Harding lightly, didn't prepare pro erly, and didn't really know what to d with the awkward, defensively skille counterpunching challenger. It was mo or less an even fight until Harding injured biceps slowed him down. Hardin like Montell Griffin, has a stink-'em-u style that can give Jones problems, and they meet again, Harding, though he'll be heavy underdog, just might become th first to truly defeat Roy Jones.

Another underdog who'd have a he of a chance is undisputed middleweig champ Bernard Hopkins, whom HB would like to pair up with Jones. Hopki is fighting better than ever at age 37, always sharp and motivated, and is vers tile enough that he won't be handcuffed Jones' speed like most opponents an Nobody ever gets through a fight wi "The Executioner" without gettin roughed up a little, and can anyone s they know for sure how Jones is going respond if he gets a little lump around h eye or gets buzzed by a straight rig hand?

Jones it too damned good to lose to ju anyone. But Harding and Hopkins sta out as a couple of guys capable of beatin him, especially as time goes by and con placency sets in more and more.

RICARDO LOPEZ
IBF Junior Flyweight Titlis

Fifty-one fights without a loss. That nothing to sneeze at. Even a guy like Bri Nielsen, who was matched as carefully Michael Jackson and Lisa-Marie Presle crapped out before he got to 51. So clear Lopez, whose 50-0-1 (37) record actual includes eight fights against past, presen or future world titlists, is something sp cial. But then, you don't need to kno about the sparkling record to know th

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Lopez barely survived his two bloody brawls with Rosendo "El Bufalo" Alvarez, and a third tussle may be on tap. If not Alvarez, perhaps another younger, stronger 108-pounder will catch the Mexican legend just as age and ring wear begin to take their toll.

You just need to watch him fight once.

Nevertheless, Lopez is beatable, and not just because he's 34 years old and cuts easily. He's still a 105-pounder in a 108-pounder's body, so the right guy can outbang him. And the right guy just might be Rosendo Alvarez, who came damned close to being the right guy twice. The only time Lopez has ever touched the canvas with anything but the soles of his feet was in his first fight with Alvarez, which Lopez narrowly escaped with a technical-decision draw. In the rematch, Lopez was absolutely magnificent—and he had to be, or else he wouldn't have squeaked out a split decision win. Add in the fact that Alvarez was cruelly efficient in his last fight, breaking down world-class Pichit Siriwat with calculating pressure and a wide array of powerpunches, and the strong potential exists for an upset and Lopez' first loss.

That's if Lopez-Alvarez III comes off, of course. But there are other fights being mentioned for "Finito" that won't be easy. Jorge Arce is young, strong, and a good bit wiser since his loss to Michael Carbajal almost three years ago, and he may get a shot at Lopez. Nelson Dieppa isn't in Lopez' class, but his one-punch power (those who witnessed his kayo of Andy Tabanas in April '01 know what we're talking about) makes him a live 'dog. And if Lopez decides to test the 112-pound waters against the talented Eric Morel, a fight for which Lopez would probably be the favorite, anything can happen.

Oh, and did we mention that Lopez is 34 years old and cuts easily? He is something special, but even special fighters lose eventually.

MANNY PACQUIAO

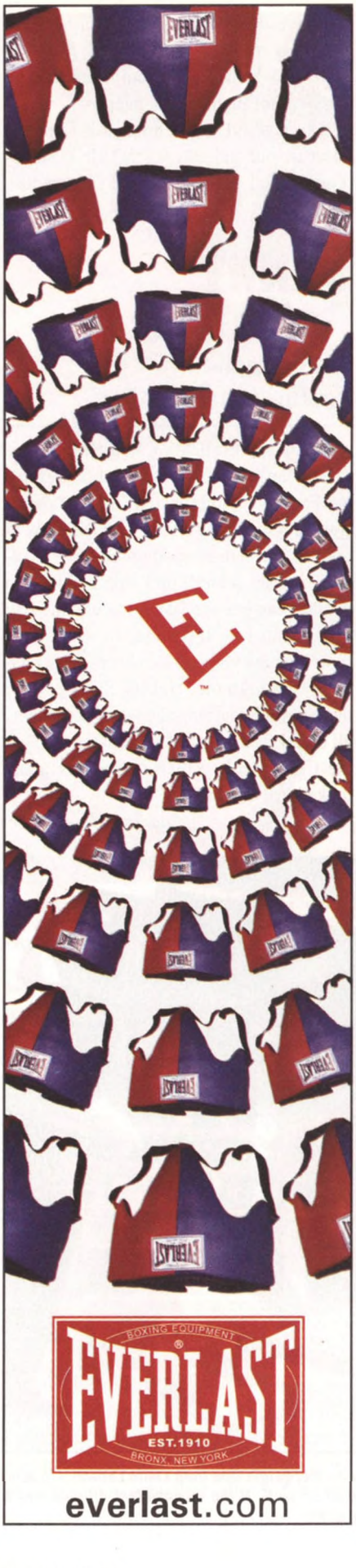
IBF Junior Featherweight Titlist

Pacquiao probably got the nickname "Pac-Man" just because people weren't quite sure how to pronounce his last name. But the moniker also works on the basis of how he seemed pumped up on power pellets when he gobbled up Lehlo Ledwaba in exciting, aggressive fashion to win the IBF 122-pound title last June. It was one of those eye-opening performances by a relatively anonymous fighter that sets the hardcore boxing fans abuzz … and sets us all up for disappointment when we find out the fighter isn't really as awesome as he looked that one night.

(Continued on page 62)

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Pacquiao looked sensational winning the IBF junior featherweight title from Lehlo Ledwaba in June '00, but in other fights, he hasn't always performed so well. If the inconsistent Filipino has a letdown against the wrong opponent, an upset is possible.



The Upset Epidemic

(Continued from page 61)

A brief look at Pacquiao's past reveals that he is not the perfect fighting machine we saw against Ledwaba, whose slow-starting style and inability to cope with pressure made the ideal foil for the Filipino. For every sensational performance—the sixth-round kayo of Ledwa a second-round blastout of Reynan Jamili, an eighth-round kayo of Chatch Dutchboy Gym to win the WBC flyweig belt—there's a lousy performance match. Pacquiao was out of shape a unprepared when Medgoen 3K-Batte took his fly title with a bodyshot in t third round. Pac-Man needed a long co from the ref and then a controversial c stoppage to overcome Nadel Hussein October '00. And in his first defense of t

Michalczewski has had his hands raised in victory 45 times without suffering a defeat, but can h streak last much longer? In his last fight, the Pole was struggling against brave but limited Richi Hall before a controversial stoppage saved him.

PHOTO BY GEORGE AZAR

The distractions of fame and fortune seem to have hurt Hamed, pictured hanging out with Hall of Famer Jose Torres, ref Joe Cortez, and rapper P. Diddy. If he can't regain his hunger to succeed in boxing, Naz could fall victim to another upset soon.

junior feather belt, the roughhousing tactics of cagey but unspectacular Agapito Sanchez were giving him fits before the bout ended in a technical draw.

That kind of inconsistency usually leads to upsets. The one thing that Pacquiao has going for him is the roll call of mediocrity that is the junior featherweight division. After Bones Adams, Paulie Ayala, and Pacquiao, there's a huge dropoff in talent at 122. The IBF contenders are a particularly sorry lot. But the thing about inconsistent fighters is that it doesn't necessarily take a great fighter to beat them. Oscar Larios, Michael Brodie, Yoddamrong Sithyodthong, Jose Luis Valbuena—on the right night, any one of them might upset the odds and make it "Game Over" for Pac-Man.

DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI

Light Heavyweight Contender

If it's impressive that Ricardo Lopez made it through 51 fights without a loss, surely it's a fine accomplishment for Michalczewski to make it to 45 wins without losing. There is a big difference, though. Lopez has compiled his magnificent record fighting in the U.S., Mexico, Thailand, South Korea, and Japan; Michalczewski hasn't left the oh-so-safe confines of Germany in his last 37 fights. And were it not for the friendly officiating he receives in his adopted homeland, Michalczewski might have been upset already.

Take his last fight for example, in December '01 against Richard Hall. You remember Hall, the brave pug who was pitifully whipped by Roy Jones a couple of years ago. He's a decent fighter perhaps, but hardly a championship-level guy. Against Michalczewski, he boxed and banged his way to a lead on nearly every scorecard except the judges', jolted the German-based Pole several times, and then got screwed when the referee stopped the fight in the 11th because his right eye was swollen—never mind that a lot of swellings on a lot of boxers have been a lot worse. The bottom line is, Michalczewski was in trouble, yet he won by TKO.

Michalczewski is a good, solid, tough fighter, but he's not the borderline pound-for-pounder his legend has built him up to be. When you're piling up wins in untelevised bouts in a foreign country, it's easy to create false hype and make people believe you're the man who could beat Roy Jones. But Michalczewski turns 34 in May, he's fighting infrequently and struggling mightily, and he might not make it to Jones if he isn't matched extra cautiously. Just about any guy in the top 10 would have a chance of upsetting him, including Montell Griffin, whom Michalczewski beat a couple of years ago via hasty stoppage after Griffin built an early lead on the scorecards. The only way Michalczewski won't get upset in the next year or two is if he cashes in by losing to the heavily favored Jones, then cashes out immediately.

NASEEM HAMED

Featherweight Contender

The upset trend began with Hamed last April, and lightning could very easily strike twice in the same spot if "The Prince" doesn't remember his pauper roots and re-focus his efforts on boxing. A wife, a child, and more money than he could possibly know what to do with obviously whittled away at Hamed's desire and set him up for his disastrous showing in losing his unbeaten record to Marco Antonio Barrera. And the wife, the kid, and the money aren't going anywhere, which leaves Naz open to more shoddy showings and, perhaps, another loss to a fighter who isn't supposed to beat him.

Hamed at his very worst could never in a million years lose to a fighter of Manuel Calvo's caliber, but after his initial comeback bout, the bombastic British featherweight is expected to step up the competition again in hopes of meeting the winner of Barrera-Erik Morales toward the end of the year. The most likely opponent appears to be Johnny Tapia, but other possibilities include Manny Pacquiao or Paulie Ayala.

Any of those could be dangerous if Naz is a little sidetracked, if his training is as lackluster as it was for the Barrera fight. Tapia especially, with his clever moves, ability to take a punch, and effective body-punching, would be a very live underdog. He probably wouldn't have been against the Naseem Hamed of five years ago; that version of The Prince had substance to go with his style. But the Hamed of recent vintage has looked vulnerable nearly every time out, and another hungry boxer with a sound chin and a sound strategy could follow the Barrera blueprint and make Naz a two-time upset victim. ■

BACK TO SCHOOL FOR BOJADO

Will "Panchito" Learn From Shocking Loss?

By Ted Bodenrader

It was quarter of 10, Connecticut time, as the spectators anxiously settled into their seats. Little did they know that in this, the first-ever boxing event to be staged in the new Mohegan Sun Arena, they were about to be greeted by such a rare occurrence.

We're not talking about the early front-runner for 2002's Upset of the Year, which would begin to unravel in all of 15 minutes' time. No, first up was legendary vocalist Jack Jones, who took the microphone for the customary singing of the American national anthem.

The silver-haired Jones, the voice behind the theme song for the '70s hit TV show *Love Boat,* was cruising along just fine. The first few lines of his rendition were flawless. But just around the time of the "twilight's last gleaming," the lights would go out in Jones' head. Pausing in mid-verse, the singer shamefully lowered his eyes, and confessed to the crowd, "I'm drawing a blank."

An official rushed into the ring to rescue Jones from drowning in despair, reminding him all about the "bombs bursting in air."

But it didn't matter anymore. The F-bombs were already flying throughout the arena. In fact, the collective boos and jeers became so hostile that Jones was soon escorted from the arena by casino police. Before rushing to safety, however, Jones courageously finished the task at hand, belting out the rest of this memorable, if flawed, rendition.

While the incident drew a rancid blend of both anger and amusement from the event's patrons, it also posed an eerie parallel to what would transpire next.

At 18 years of age, Francisco Bojado wasn't even old enough to legally pass through the casino floor by himself to get to his latest conquest. Nonetheless, out came the teenage terror, who thus far in his professional boxing career had been rolling along at a remarkable clip. Nine victories in nine contests, all by way of knockout. It doesn't get any smoother than that.

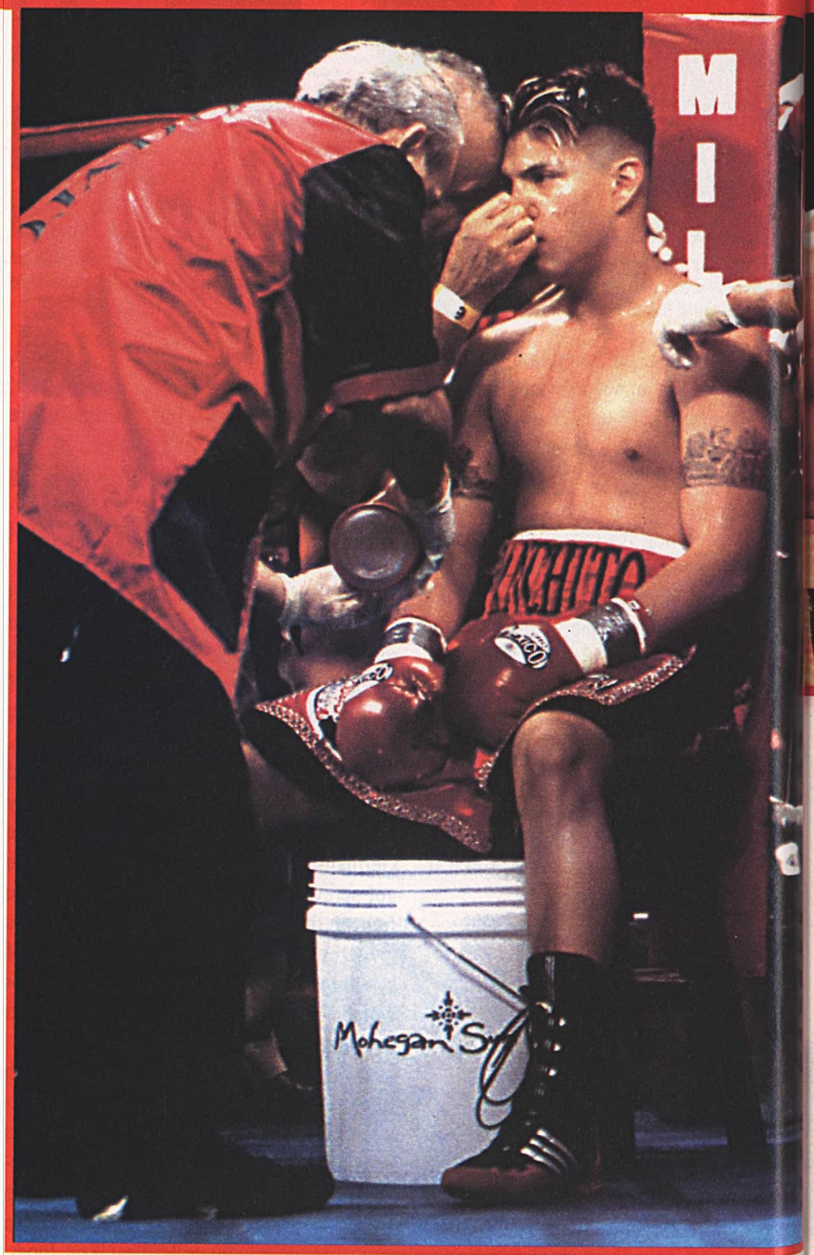


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Roger Bloodworth works on Bojado (above) between rounds during his unanimous-decision loss t Juan Carlos Rubio (above right). The trainer says how far Bojado goes in the future could very we depend on how much he learns from his defeat to Rubio.

But like Jones, Bojado would soon encounter misfortune, well before the dawn's early light. Juan Carlos Rubio, the gritty junior welterweight standing before him with a record of 26-6-2 (10) coming in, would quickly take the red glare out of Bojado's fisted rockets.

Bojado spent the first three minutes of his latest display ripping bullets off the skull of his Mexican nemesis, drawing an array of ooohs and ahhhs from the dazzled crowd. But when those three minutes came to a crashing halt, the two combatants met face to face in the middle of the ring. Rubio, without a wince of pain on his face, never backed off an inch. It was at that point that Bojado, too, would draw a blank.

"What we had was an 18-year-old kid who was in there with a guy who was not only tough, but very, very smart," explained Bojado's trainer, Roger Bloodworth. "And he didn't know what to do. It got him completely out of his game. It put him into a fight that he didn't need to be in."

During their post-round standoff, Rubio didn't need his translator to deliver the seething message to Bojado. Dropping his fists by his side, Rubio glared defiantly in Bojado's discouraged eyes. "No," he said in perfect English, just after the last punch thudded off his temple. "No way."

Nine rounds later, the three ringside judges would agree, leaving boxing with yet another upset on its hands. While Bojado was handed the shocking unanimous decision defeat, the 26-year-old Rubio was hailed as the unlikely hero, clasping the thrilling decision in the process.

But on this night, Bojado was not the only one to go blank. So did the faces of the 8,000 live witnesses and the millions of others who caught the Showtime telecast and watched the systematic dismantling of the next Julio Cesar Chavez.

Yet, Teddy Atlas was not among the stunned observers. After all, it was Atlas who once guided Mike Tyson through his turbulent teens, knowing the importance of hardening a young lion before releasing him into the wild. What Atlas saw in Bojado was the same precise thing that eventually led to Tyson's fistic downfall. He was surrounded by a cast of enablers, or what Atlas refers to as "yes-men." Bojado, like Jones, would eventually finish the flawed performance, but not before leaving behind a host of impending question marks.

"The problem with Bojado," said Atlas, "was that he was never hardened for battle, and as a result, he wasn't prepared to deal with a game opponent who wouldn't submit. Bojado has the physical tools to beat Rubio, but he hasn't been forced to develop what he needs to be great. He might have thought he was getting it, but he really wasn't."

True, Bojado was hearing it everywhere he went. Not only did "Panchito" hear it all over his hometown of Guadalajara, Mexico, but he also heard it from the media, from his colleagues, and from his friends. He heard all about his tools and his talent, and how the two combined to create a distinct rarity at such a young, callow age. In fact, Bojado heard the praise more often than he heard his own name. He heard he was tough. He heard he was fast. He heard he was strong. He heard he was invincible.

Well, Panchito Bojado heard wrong.

On the chilly night of February 16, Bojado encountered the first "no-man" of his young career in the determined Rubio. And as Tyson learned one infamous day from Buster Douglas 12 years ago, an encounter such as this can sometimes reveal a chilling truth.

"To be a prodigy, no matter how physically gifted you are," said Atlas, "you need an environment that will bring out your talent. That means you need to surround yourself with people who won't coddle you."

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Bojado fired his big guns early, but when Rubio survived without too much difficulty and punched back with gusto, it prompted critics to question "Panchito's" punching power, which had previously resulted in nine straight kayo victories in as many pro starts. In fact, no previous opponent had lasted beyond three rounds.

While Bojado waltzed into the ring oozing confidence, the lanky Rubio was hardly in the mood to coddle. If everything Bojado had been hearing to date was "yes-yes-yes," Rubio's body language was providing a sharp contrast. From the opening bell, his hardened stare said it all: "No."

Even when Bojado began to unleash the same numbing attack, a breathtaking blend of speed and power that kayoed every professional opponent he had previously faced, Rubio continued to bark back with the same chilling message: "No."

Right hand to the body. No. Left hook upstairs. No. Right cross to the temple. No.

After three rounds of this ineffective approach, the mask of confidence on Bojado's face was quickly replaced by one of frustration and doubt.

Sensing that Bojado was headed dangerously toward trouble, Bloodworth began to rifle seething instructions in the corner, but to no avail. Even Zab Judah, often foolish with his fists himself, fired helpful advice from his ringside seat.

"Settle down and box him," Judah hollered. "Just box him."

Yet, Bojado pressed forward, round after round, and defiantly tried to take Rubio out with one blast of power after the next. In the meantime, his jab was left somewhere on the Mexican coastline.

"He could have done a lot better if he fought a more intelligent fight," Bloodworth later conceded. "There were things he should have been doing o there, like using his jab and ju concentrating on boxing."

Yet, intelligence was in t other guy's corner. By rou four, the wise Rubio was pickin through the minefield a methodically laying down flu ries of his own. By round five, became obvious that momentu was favoring veteran wisdo over youth and vigor.

While Bojado continued unleash a vicious power showe the only thing that would dropping was his jaw. His mou agape, Bojado invited yet anot er knock on his impeccabl image, when ringsiders began question his conditioning a training ethics.

"Before the fight, my weig was up around 170," Bojad later admitted. "That meant m whole training camp was co centrating on weight. I had lose 25 pounds in four week and because of that, during the fight, I g tired earlier than expected."

While the battle of the bulge has becom common among the sport's aging combat ants like the 33-year-old Michael Moore

Bojado made weight, but had to shed 25 pounds in four weeks to do so. If he is going to live up t expectations, he will have to stop blowing up between fights. Some think Bojado has been spoile by all the rave reviews he'd garnered prior to losing to Rubio.

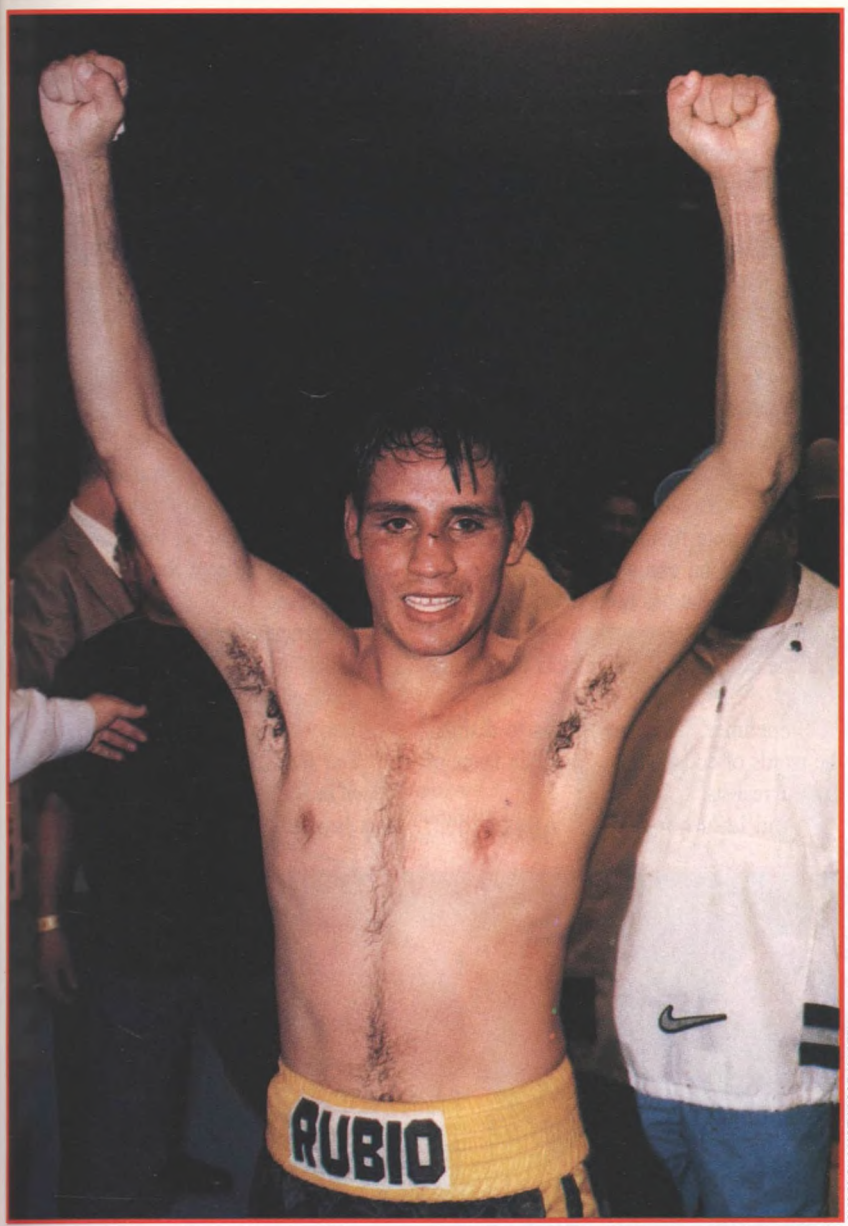


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Rubio celebrates after decisively outpointing previously unbeaten Bojado for by far the biggest victory of his career. Although Rubio was the underdog, he showed no fear of his highly touted rival, boxing and punching his way to a clear-cut decision.

who would perform later in the night, it is not what you'd expect from an 18-year-old adolescent.

Nonetheless, by round six, weight became an afterthought because Bojado was engaged in the battle of his life. As Bojado began to tire, Rubio's engines were just revving up.

Rubio pinned Bojado against the ropes in the waning moments of the sixth round and introduced him to the other half of boxing. He taught Bojado a thing or two about leather consumption, and more importantly, about survival. As the rounds unraveled, Bojado ate one serving of combinations after the next, and it soon became questionable whether he'd even see the final bell.

While Bloodworth later conceded that he gave the anguished Bojado the opportunity to quit in the corner, the young lion sharply negated the option.

Bojado would taste canvas for the first time in his career in round eight, but the flash knockdown was spawned more from exhaustion than Rubio's fists. Ducking underneath an assault of hooks, Bojado's mitt would slap the canvas, prompting referee Michael Ortega to issue a count. The knockdown proved costly indeed, because after Bojado survived the next two rounds, the three judges would stop

(Continued on page 68)

WWW.BOXINGTITLES.COM
TITLE BOXING
PONY BOXING
GRAITT
EVERLAST
asics
adidas

Francisco Bojado

(Continued from page 67)

the Bojado train, engineered by manager Shelly Finkel, dead in its tracks.

Judges Fred Ucci and Clark Sammartino both had it 96-94, while Melvina Lathan scored it 98-92, all in favor of Rubio. THE RING also scored it for Rubio, 96-95, with the knockdown providing the margin of victory.

Although Bojado, like many of the casino's patrons, walked out of Mohegan Sun empty-handed, what he took away from the Indian reservation that February night was a wealth of education.

"What Panchito has to learn from this is that he's not going to knock everybody out," said Bloodworth. "He's not going to just walk through all of the competition."

"I made a lot of mistakes out there," agreed Bojado. "I thought Rubio wouldn't be able to take my punches, so I was aggressive when I should have boxed and fought smart."

"Panchito is a tremendous natural talent," Bloodworth piped in. "Now he has to learn how to fight."

Yet, the boxing lesson from Rubio proved far more revealing than anything Bloodworth could ever rifle his way.

"I guess I learned something about losing," said Bojado through a pair of puffy lips. "I wish it hadn't happened, but I guess it was going to happen sooner or later. Better now than when I'm going for a title.

"The greatest fighters in boxing have losses," he added. "I have to look at it as a learning experience that will help me in the long run."

But first, Bojado must not only mature into a complete fighter, but also into a wise man. Before he can settle into the bed of superstardom that has been so arduously prepared for him, he must know how to deal with the distracting pleasures that often come with it.

Sometimes, that even means to dismiss the words of coddling "yes-men" in favor of truthful realists.

"And let's not forget," Atlas added, "we're talking about an 18-year-old kid here. He still has the ability to be special. He's just not there yet."

How his first taste of professional defeat will settle with Bojado is yet to be known. But Bloodworth knows one thing.

"He will either be a better fighter or a worse fighter because of this," he said. "I happen to think he will be a better fighter. The thing to keep in mind is that he went the 10 hard rounds and didn't crack."

On a night when a famed singer boldly recovered from the blunder of a lifetime, the evening turned into a vital lesson for the unripe Bojado. While it is doubtful that Jack Jones will ever forget those precious lyrics again, it is an equal bet that Bojado will not draw a blank the next time a man refuses to fall at his feet.

Yes, boxing's fastest rising star recently sustained an irreversible blunder. Now, the wiser Panchito Bojado must tuck in his chin and carry on.

Ted Bodenrader is a freelance writer based in Boston and a regular contributor to this magazine.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

When Bojado, who suffered a knockdown in the eighth, tired down the stretch, Rubio kept hammering away. There were a few moments when it looked like the weary Bojado might not last, but he hung tough and went the distance.

International Boxing Hall of Fame - Canastota, New York

I ♥ NY

ANNUAL INDUCTION WEEKEND JUNE 6-9, 2002

★ A Championship Weekend in Boxing's Hometown ★

BANQUET OF CHAMPIONS

Spinks Jinx . . . brothers Michael and Leon exchange stories of capturing world titles.

FIST CASTING

Everlasting . . . a fist cast by Felix "Tito" Trinidad.

PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

Marvelous . . . Marvin Hagler waves to fans.

Grand Marshal . . . HBO star Tony Sirico greets parade spectators.

CELEBRITY BOXING NIGHT

LAILA ALI

HECTOR CAMACHO

Fight Night . . . Popular boxers featured in action-packed bouts at Turning Stone Casino Resort.

5K RACE, FUN RUN

Road Work . . . Christy Martin, Paul Spadafora (L), and Livingstone Bramble enjoy race.

Go . . . Ken Norton officially starts race of celebrity boxers and runners.

INDUCTION CEREMONY

A Moment in Time . . . Ismael Laguna (L) on induction bandstand while George Benton (R) poses in museum moments before Induction Ceremony.

BOXING CARD SHOW

A Collector's Dream . . . Boxing memorabilia for fans. The world's only all-boxing show draws collectors from throughout the world.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Putt . . . Jimmy Ellis (L) chips on 18th green and Juan LaPorte (R) poses with golfers.

VIP COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Stars . . . Marvelous Marvin Hagler and Hector "Macho" Camacho pose for reception guests, while Angelo Dundee (R) receives red carpet welcome.

WORKOUT SESSIONS

Paul Spadafora and Sugar Shane Mosley work out for the public on Museum grounds.

RINGSIDE TALKS

Reminiscing. . . Alexis Arguello (L) reunites with Ruben Olivares (R).

Yes! Please send me a brochure of the Schedule of Events and ticket information

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

The Showplace of Boxing — Boxing Hall of Fame — Canastota, NY

Int'l Boxing Hall of Fame

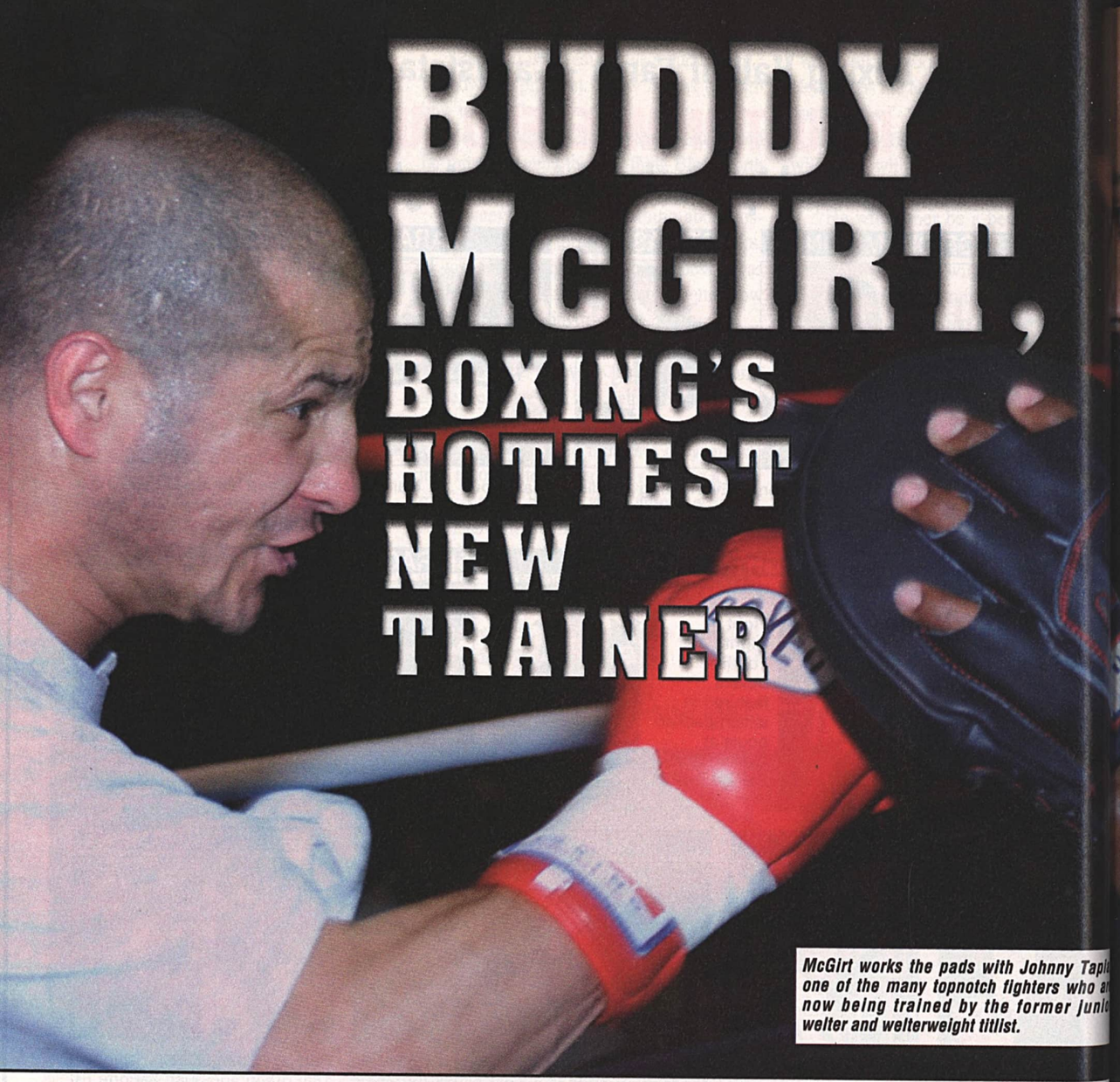
PO Box 425 • Canastota, NY 13032

Call: 315-697-7095

or Fax: 315-697-5356

Madison County Tourism 1-800-684-7320

BUDDY McGIRT, BOXING'S HOTTEST NEW TRAINER



McGirt works the pads with Johnny Tapi one of the many topnotch fighters who a now being trained by the former junio welter and welterweight titlist.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

By Robert Cassidy

It was Buddy McGirt's dream to become a world champion. But he has always believed that it was his destiny to *train* champions. McGirt, who achieved his dream by winning world titles in two weight classes, is now fulfilling his destiny.

Although McGirt officially retired from fighting in 1997, he never walked away from the sport. Today he is passing on the experience accrued from an 80-fight pro career to other fighters. He says he enjoys being a professor of pugilism far more than being a pugilist.

"Don't get me wrong, my career was great," said McGirt. "But whenever things were going good, something always happened to mess it up. Now I understand that all of the adversity helped prepare me to be a better trainer. I feel in my heart that this is what God had in mind for me. It was meant for me."

In a pro career that spanned 15 years, McGirt won titles in the junior welterweight and welterweight divisions. But in two of his biggest fights—against Meldrick Taylor and the first fight with Pernell Whitaker—he was set back by physical ailments. The politics of boxing were not necessarily kind, either. It took him six years and 39 fights before he got his first title fight and another three years to get another shot after he was dethroned.

But McGirt doesn't show a hint of b terness, and if there was any, the enthus asm and challenge he gets out of trainin fighters has buried it.

"I put more into training than I did figh ing myself," said McGirt. "I'll be drivin home from the gym and think of some thing, and then I'll call the fighter at hom I go over the fight a zillion times in m mind. I'll watch tapes over and over. It different now. I have someone's life an career in my hands. I take that personal."

McGirt, who is 38, said being a trainc is merely an extension of what he did on daily basis. As an active fighter, he alway offered tips and advice to young boxer

He was passionate about his sport and he wanted to share that passion. Under McGirt's tutelage right now are some of the top fighters in the world. Among them are Arturo Gatti, Johnny Tapia, Antonio Tarver, and Rhoshii Wells.

"Buddy is a people person and I think he's an excellent trainer," said Tarver, who has been with McGirt for his last three fights. "It took me 17 fights to realize what I had been missing. The improvement you see in me is a credit to Buddy McGirt."

Pat Lynch, Gatti's manager, also praised McGirt's training acumen.

"There's a mutual respect between Buddy and Arturo," Lynch said. "Buddy relates very well to fighters. Everyone

"This Is What God Had In Mind For Me"

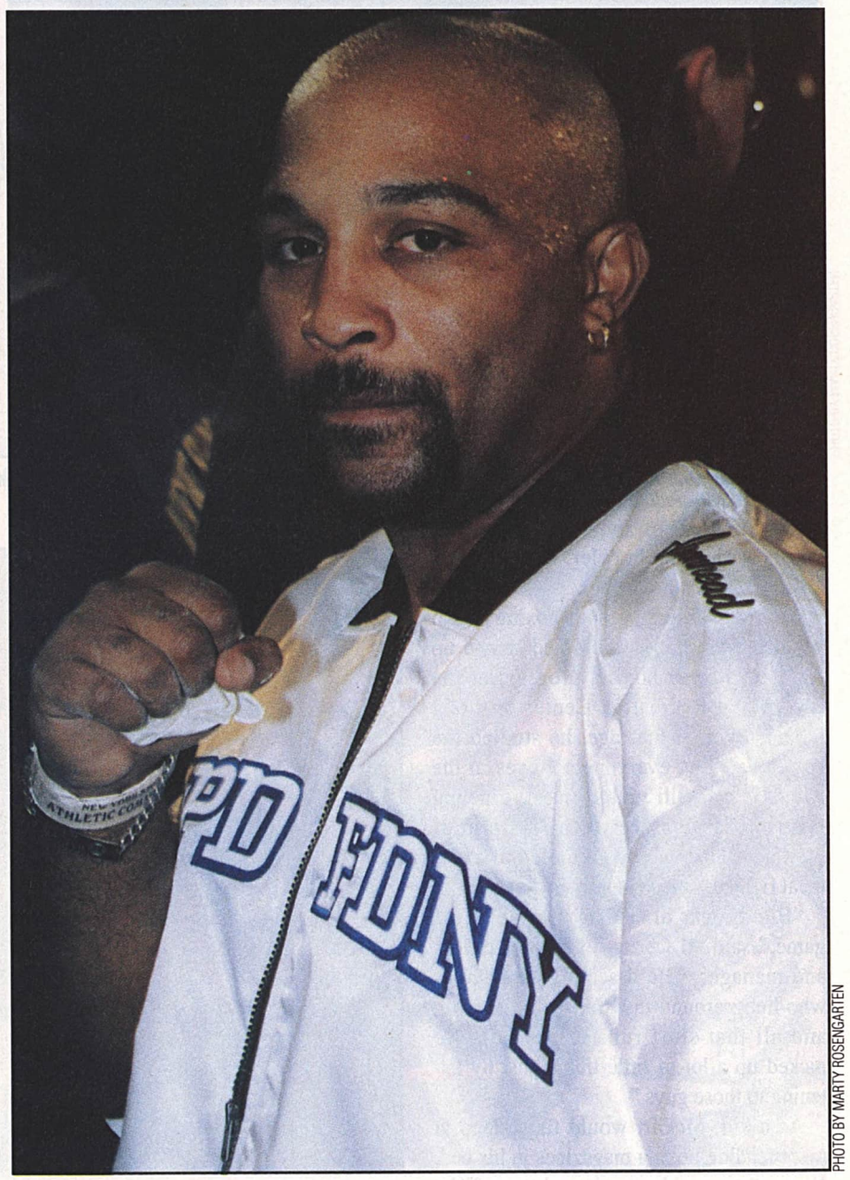


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Although McGirt says that quitting boxing was the toughest thing he's ever done, he feels that it was his destiny to train championship-caliber fighters.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

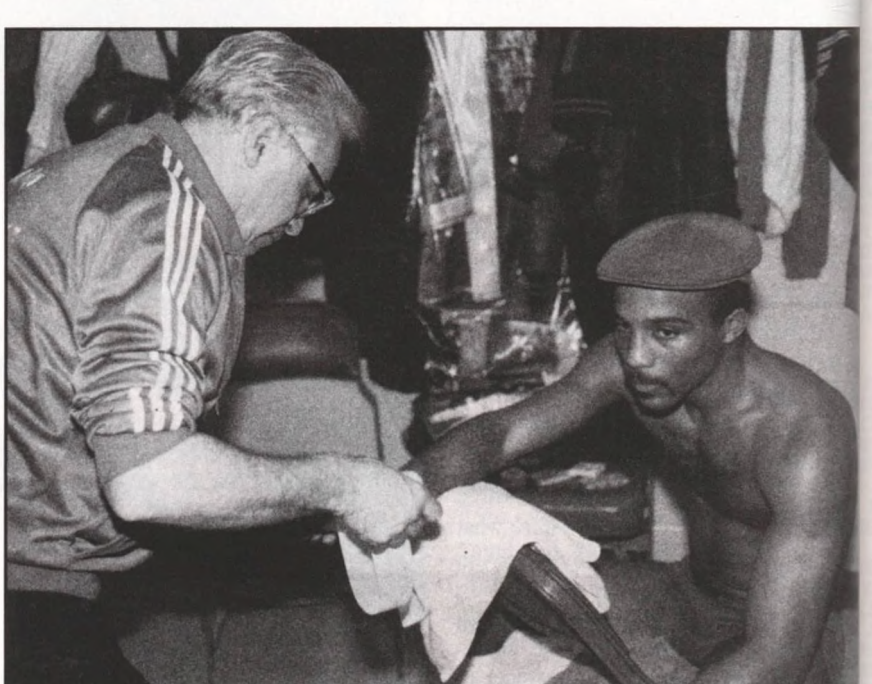
McGirt poses with Arturo Gatti and Pat Lynch (far right) following Gatti's victory over Terronn Millett at Madison Square Garden. Both Gatti a manager Lynch credit McGirt with helping Gatti rediscover his neglected boxing skills.

knows Arturo the brawler, but Buddy is resurrecting Arturo the boxer."

McGirt's obsession with boxing began when he was 12 years old and signed up for the amateur boxing program at the Brentwood Recreation Center on Long Island. Even at that age, he studied the sport, watching everyone's moves in the gym. He can still vividly recall grueling sparring sessions between future middleweight champ Vito Antuofermo and a local fighter named George Fakaris.

"Buddy was always a student of the game," said Al Certo, his former trainer and manager. "He'd see all the champs who hung around my store and the gym, and all that stuff rubs off on you. He picked up a lot of little things just by listening to those guys."

As a kid, McGirt would fall asleep at night reading boxing magazines in his bed. His mother would come in and turn off the light long after he was sleeping. In fact, he



McGirt has his hands wrapped by Al Certo prior to a bout in 1989. Certo, who trained and manage McGirt throughout his pro career, is impressed with his old charge's work as a trainer.

still has the first boxing magazine he ever owned, an issue of *World Boxing*, THE RING's sister publication, with Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier on the cover.

When his family got a VCR a few years later, McGirt used to borrow boxing tapes and watch them repeatedly. His favorite was a documentary on Ali called, *Ali: Skills, Brains And Guts*. "I must have watched that 1,000 times," McGirt said.

While Certo trained McGirt through his prime, the former champ also credits trainer Dominic Amoroso with building a solid foundation early in his pro career.

"Dominic is a no-nonsense guy," said McGirt. "He didn't just train me, he taught me. They don't make trainers like that anymore. He was always watching me. Every time I hit the heavybag, he'd be standing there watching me. When I watch guys hit the heavybag, they are like, 'Why are you watching me hit the bag?' It's because the bag is your opponent, you should be able to set everything up on the heavybag."

Amoroso and Certo had a parting of ways early in McGirt's career, but Amoroso and McGirt still have a mutual respect and McGirt calls him regularly to ask advice.

"In the gym, Buddy was the best," said Amoroso, a former featherweight who met Sandy Saddler during his 80-fight pro career. "He paid attention to everything. And I never stopped hounding him. He even complained to his mother. She called me one day and said, 'My son tells me that you are picking on him in the gym.' Before I could get a word out, she said, 'Whatever you are doing, don't stop.'"

As a trainer, McGirt represents a rare breed. Boxing history suggests that fighters who attain his level of success often don't make for good trainers. While Eddie Mustafa Muhammad is another exception to the rule, Sugar Ray Leonard briefly tried his hand as a trainer, but had little success. He wondered why his young fighters couldn't do the things that came so naturally to him.

The feeling is that great fighters have achieved their success by talent, instinct, and hard work. You can instill a work ethic in a young fighter, but talent and instinct are gifts. Such gifts can be cultivated, but not taught. Some of the game's legendary trainers—Eddie Futch, Lou Duva, Angelo Dundee—either fought briefly as pros or not at all.

"Being an ex-fighter doesn't make you a good trainer," said Certo, a New Jersey Golden Gloves champ who never turned pro. "But Buddy has the knack. I'm impressed with what he's doing."

McGirt, though, believes that his experience and success as a fighter is directly related to his success as a trainer.

"How can you tell someone to do something if you can't do it?" said McGirt. "The sad part is that I bet 65 percent of trainers never had a fight in their life. That's what's hurting boxing. These people are trainers because they are kiss-asses, because they hang around the gym. They are not teachers, and that's what boxing needs. Some of them will tell you, 'I boxed but there was no record.' Man, they have Jack Johnson on film, but there is no record of you as a fighter?"

McGirt said that often the biggest mistake a former fighter will make is to mold their charge into a replica of himself.

"You can't make a fighter fight like you," said McGirt. "You have to take what the fighter has and build on that. I tell my fighters, 'I don't want you to do it the way I did it. I just want you to get the same results. And that's hit and don't be hit.'"

While it took McGirt six years to become a titleholder the first time, it took him just six days to become the trainer of a titleholder. Last March, McGirt arrived in Las Vegas to work with a fighter on the Evander Holyfield-John Ruiz II undercard. A manager approached him to see if he would help prepare a fighter for a "title fight on Saturday."

"Which Saturday?" McGirt asked.

The manager looked at him and said, "This Saturday."

Although McGirt admitted there was little that could be done in that time, he accepted the offer. The fighter was super middleweight Byron Mitchell, and McGirt told him, "I'll assess you during the fight. Let's see what we have and we'll take it from there."

The fight, against Manny Siaca for the vacant WBA title, was not going well for Mitchell. When the 12th round began, McGirt was told he could leave the corner to prepare his other fighter. Mitchell spotted McGirt walking away and his disappointed stare drew McGirt back to the corner.

"I couldn't abandon him at that point," McGirt said. "When I got back to the corner, he threw a hook to the body and a

PHOTO BY ANTHONY NESTE/HBO

Light heavyweight contender Antonio Tarver, pictured shooting a right at Lincoln Carter, is another talented fighter who believes McGirt is bringing out the best in him. Under McGirt, Tarver recently scored a big win over Reggie Johnson.

hook to the head and knocked the guy out."

With McGirt stationed in Florida and Mitchell training in Ohio, logistical problems prevented them from working together beyond that night. At one point, McGirt also worked with James Page and Brian Adams. In addition to Gatti, Tapia, Wells, and Tarver, he currently trains Scott DePompe and Chantel Stanciel.

When McGirt is approached about working with a fighter, he suggests they train together for a week and see if they have the right chemistry. When he was invited to work with Tapia, he and the fighter had several heart-to-heart conversations about life in general.

"We took his wife shopping one day and we stood in the mall while she went in the store," said McGirt. "We just talked and talked about everything. We really didn't even talk boxing. That day, we just clicked."

In training, particularly with Tapia, McGirt is brutally honest.

"He told me that not all his trainers were honest with him," said McGirt. "I told him, 'Then they weren't helping you.' Sometimes he gets mad at me. Tapia will give me the evil eye. I tell him on the days he's mad at me, just write me a note."

As a former fighter who understands that the daily routine can get boring, McGirt attempts to make the workouts interesting by challenging his fighters.

"When I do the mitts with Johnny Tapia, his goal is to knock me off-balance. Or I'll tell him, 'I'm going to hit you with the pads twice this round.' And if I do, he's thinking about that all night and he can't wait to get another chance tomorrow. All fighters love a challenge."

McGirt still loves a challenge, and transforming Gatti into a boxer represents a tremendous one. He felt the chemistry immediately with Gatti, but waited the entire week before telling the fighter. He wanted Gatti to feel it, too.

"They hit it off right away," said Lynch. "They got along on a personal level and as a fighter and trainer."

In their first performance together, Gatti knocked out former IBF junior welter titlist Terronn Millett in the fourth round. While Gatti has made a reputation as a fierce, unyielding brawler, he showed during the Millett fight that he was willing to box and think about defense.

You don't have to be a star to benefit from McGirt's expert advice. Heavyweight journeyman Sherman Willia (left) was happy to have McGirt in his corner when he upset former cruiserweight titlist Al Cole in January.

"Arturo Gatti boxed a long time ago," said McGirt. "I just had to remind him of that. I told him, 'Everyone knows you can punch with the left hook. Everyone knows you can war. But what about the Arturo Gatti who can box? I want you to fight when you want to fight. You control the tempo.'"

Added Lynch: "There were times in sparring and during the Millett fight that Arturo would get hit and want to revert to brawling. But Buddy was always able to calm him down. It's great to see him going back to boxing and slipping punches. If that can continue, Arturo can fight for a long time."

When Tarver beat Reggie Johnson in January in an IBF title elimination fight, McGirt told him, "We have to fight at a fast pace. He's an old pro, so pick it up. And you can't sit in the pocket for too long."

McGirt added that when Tarver "sat in the pocket too long, he got dropped." Tarver was knocked down in round nine, but McGirt remained calm and positive in the corner.

"When he came back to the corner reassured him that he was winning t fight and that he had three more rounds go—and let's win them, too. When t water is deep and rough, the fighter nee to know I've been through that. How c you teach a fighter to survive that if you never survived that yourself?"

"I know Buddy has been there time a again in his career," said Tarver. "I brings a confidence to the corner betwe rounds. And we've had a great game pl going into every fight. He helps me und stand my opponent and what it takes beat him."

McGirt relishes the fact that he st climbs up the three steps that lead to t ring. The challenge before him may be little different and the reward not as gre but he is still in the sport he loves, figuri out ways to beat the man in the opposi corner. And that's enough for him.

"It was hard to quit fighting," admitt McGirt. "It was the hardest thing I ev had to do in my life. But in all honest I'm happy. I love what I'm doing now."

Robert Cassidy is a former associa editor of this magazine and a freque contributor.

BOXING FIGHT POSTERS, PROGRAMS, ART PRINTS, T-SHIRTS, PHOTOS & AUTOGRAPHS

GREAT MOMENTS IN BOXING

8"x10" B&W Action Photos — Just $4.50 ea.

- Robinson/LaMotta Fight
- Louis-Schmeling Battle
- Dempsey beats Willard
- Marciano slugs Lastarza
- Robinson beats Basilio
- Tunney/Dempsey Battle
- Sanchez/Lopez Battle
- Pep vs Saddler Fight
- Marciano's KOs Walcott
- Robinson slugs Gavilan
- Sanchez beats Gomez
- Ali floors Liston
- Hagler nails Hearns
- Leonard defeats Hearns
- Frazier upsets Ali
- Graziano - Zale classic
- Ali-Foreman Battle
- Marciano KO's Louis

8"x10" B&W Photos - Just $4.50 ea.

Ali • Basilio • Delahoya • Chavez • Corbett • Frazier
Dempsey • Duran • LaMotta • Leonard • J. Johnson
Jones Jr. • Louis • Marciano • Foreman • Tyson
Pazienza • Robinson • Pep • Sanchez • Holyfield

8"x10" COLOR PHOTOS - $5.50 ea.

Ali • Delahoya • Hagler vs. Hearns • Chavez •
Leonard vs. Hearns • Gatti • Duran • Foreman
Frazier • Hagler • Hearns • Holmes • Holyfield
Leonard • Mancini • Holyfield vs. Tyson • Bowe
Ali vs. Frazier • Ali vs. Foreman • Ali KO's Liston
Marciano • Tyson • Jones Jr. • Chavez vs. Delahoya

BASEBALL CAPS - $17 EA:

DELAHOYA/CAMACHO • PAZIENZA/DURAN • DELAHOYA/KAMAU
DELAHOYA/WHITAKER • HOLYFIELD/MOORER II • TYSON/BERBICK
PAZIENZA/ROSENBLATT • DELAHOYA/RUELAS • TYSON/HOLYFIELD
HOLYFIELD/TYSON II • CHAVEZ/DELAHOYA • OSCAR DELAHOYA
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II • TYSON/RUDDOCK II • JONES/PAZIENZA
CHAVEZ/GAMACHE • MOORER/FOREMAN • DURAN/CAMACHO • F. TRINIDAD
JONES/GONZALEZ • DELAHOYA/CARR • F. MAYWEATHER/RIOS • R. DURAN
DELAHOYA/RIVERA • IRON MIKE TYSON • DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY • DELAHOYA/QUARTEY • DELAHOYA/CHARPENTIER
MAYWHEATHR/HERNANDEZ • HAMED/BARRERA • DELAHOYA/GATTI

8 X 10 AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOS

MUHAMMAD ALI	$300.00
OSCAR DELAHOYA or ROY JONES	$80.00 ea.
JOE FRAZIER or FELIX TRINIDAD	$85.00 ea.
LARRY HOLMES or ALEXIS ARGUELLO	$45.00 ea.
MAX SCHMELING or TOMMY MORRISON	$60.00 ea.
JAKE LAMOTTA or TOMMY HEARNS	$50.00 ea.
JOHN RUIZ or ERNIE SHAVERS	$35.00 ea.
WILLIE PEP or FERNANDO VARGAS	$45.00 ea.
SUGAR RAY LEONARD or ROBERTO DURAN	$50.00 ea.
EMILE GRIFFITH or DANA ROSENBLATT	$25.00 ea.
LENNOX LEWIS or JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ	$85.00 ea.
WILFREDO GOMEZ or CARMEN BASILIO	$35.00 ea.
HECTOR CAMACHO or M. TAYLOR	$35.00 ea.
MARVIN HAGLER or ARCHIE MOORE	$75.00 ea.
SAAD MUHAMMAD or DAVID TUA	$25.00 ea.
KID GAVILAN (BW)	$70.00
EVANDER HOLYFIELD	$100.00
MIKE TYSON or BILLY CONN	$150.00 ea.
FLOYD PATTERSON or BEAU JACK	$50.00 ea.
KEN NORTON or RAY MANCINI	$35.00 ea.
ANGEL MANFREDY	$35.00
VINNY PAZIENZA or ARTURO GATTI	$35.00 ea.
ANDREW GOLOTA	$45.00

FIGHT T-SHIRTS

JONES/GONZALEZ • HOLYFIELD/RUIZ II • HOLYFIELD/MOORER II
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II • DURAN/CAMACHO • OLYMPIC TRIALS '93
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR • CHAVEZ/CAMACHO • O. DELAHOYA
ROY JONES JR. • TYSON/HOLYFIELD '91 • DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD
ROBERTO DURAN • LEONARD/DURAN II • RIDDICK BOWE
FELIX TRINIDAD • HAGLER/LEONARD • HAMED/BARRERA
MAYWHEATHER/HERNANDEZ • HOLYFIELD/HOLMES
DELAHOYA/KAMAU • DEALHOYA/WHITAKER • DELAHOYA/MOSLEY
DELAHOYA/CARR & MAYWHEATHER JR./VARGAS
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY • PAZ/ROSENBLATT • MANCINI/CAMACHO
Vinny Pazienza • LEONARD/DURAN III • LEONARD/NORRIS
LEWIS/TUA • TRINIDAD/VARGAS • PAZIENZA/DURAN II
JULIO C. CHAVEZ • DELAHOYA/CAMACHO • SHANE MOSLEY
MUHAMMAD ALI • ROCKY MARCIANO • MOSLEY/STONE
CAMACHO/EDWARDS • HAGLER/HEARNS • MANCINI/HAUGEN
HECTOR CAMACHO • DELAHOYA/GATTI • MAYWHEATHER/RIOS
CHAVEZ/GAMACHE • ALI/NORTON • LEONARD/HEARNS

Just $18.00 each **(choose XL or L)**

FIGHT POSTERS

ALI/BUGNER (Linen Backed)	$1,000.00
ALI/FRAZIER I (LeRoy Neiman Poster)	$600.00
ALI/FRAZIER I (Closed Circuit) POSTER	$300.00
ALI/FRAZIER III — ON SITE	$3,000.00
ALI/FRAZIER III (Closed Circuit) NEIMAN	$95.00
ALI/HOLMES (REPRINT) or HOLMES/MERCER	$15.00 ea.
ALI/HOLMES or CHAVEZ/WHITAKER	$100.00 ea.
ALI/LISTON 35TH ANNIVERSARY	$18.00
ALI/NORTON III	$400.00
FOREMAN/ALI (Closed Circuit) Poster	$500.00
BARRERA/JONES or BARRERA/DIAZ	$20.00 ea.
BOWE/GOLOTA or BOWE/GOLOTA II	$45.00 ea.
CAMACHO/ROSARIO or CHAVEZ/CAMACHO	$75.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/DELAHOYA or CHAVEZ/ALI	$5.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/RANDALL, TRINIDAD/CAMACHO	$45.00
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR or CHAVEZ/TAYLOR II	$35.00 ea.
JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ or DELAHOYA/QUARTEY	$20.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CAMACHO or DELAHOYA/RIVERA	$15.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CAMPANELLA, Jones/Tate	$45.00
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II or DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD	$25.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CARR, Maywheather/Vargas	$10.00
DELAHOYA/HERNANDEZ	$35.00
DELAHOYA/LEIJA	$50.00
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY or DELAHOYA/GATTI	$30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/RUELAS or MANCINI/CAMACHO	$35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/WHITAKER or DELAHOYA/GONZALEZ	$20.00 ea.
JACK DEMPSEY 16"X20" B&W POSTER	$45.00
FENECH/NELSON II or CZYZ/LALONDE	$45.00 ea.
FOREMAN/COONEY or DURAN/BENITEZ	$25.00 ea.
FOREMAN/GRIMSLEY or FOREMAN/MORRISON	$40.00 ea.
FOREMAN/SAVARESE or HERNANDEZ/GERENA	$5.00 ea.
GATTI/ROBINSON, VARGAS/CAMPAS	$50.00
HAGLER/DURAN or DURAN/CAMACHO	$35.00 ea.
HAGLER/HEARNS or HOLMES/WITHERSPOON	$100.00 ea.
HAGLER/LEONARD or HAGLER/MUGABI	$60.00 ea.
HAMED/CABRERRA or HAMED/BARRERA	$45.00 ea.
HAMED/KELLY or HAMED/INGLE	$60.00 ea.
HAMED/SOTO or NELSON/HERNANDEZ	$10.00 ea.
HEARNS/BARKLEY II or LAZARRAGA/MEDINA	$10.00 ea.
HEARNS/HILL or HEARNS/ROLDAN	$20.00 ea.
HOLMES/COONEY or HOLMES/SMITH	$35.00 ea.
HOLMES/SHAVERS or HOLMES/M. SPINKS	$30.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BOWE or TAPIA/AYALA	$20.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/HICKS or HOLYFIELD/BOWE III	$50.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/CZYZ or HOLYFIELD/FOREMAN	$35.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/DOUGLAS or HOLYFIELD/MERCER	$45.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/HOLMES or MCCULLOUGH/ZARAGOSA	$15.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/MOORER I or II	$15.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/STEWART or WHITAKER/MCGIRT	$50.00 ea.
JONES/CASTRO or JONES/CHIRINO	$200.00 ea.
JONES/GRIFFIN II or JONES/JOHNSON or JONES/GONZALEZ	$30.00 ea.
JONES/HARDING or JONES/HARMON	$20.00 ea.
TYSON/BERBICK or JONES/TONEY	$150.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN II or WHITAKER/PAEZ	$40.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN III or LEONARD/LALONDE	$45.00 ea.
LEONARD/HEARNS I or II	$40.00 ea.
LEWIS/GOLOTA or LEWIS/TUCKER	$5.00 ea.
LEWIS/MCCALL or LEWIS/BRIGGS	$35.00 ea.
LEWIS/GRANT or LEWIS/BOTHA	$30.00 ea.
LEWIS/RAHMAN or MORRISON/LEWIS	$25.00 ea.
MARCIANO/WALCOTT (Reprint) or LEWIS/TUA	$25.00 ea.
MAYWHEATHER/CORRALES or MANCINI/CHACON	$20.00 ea.
MAYWHEATHER/C. HERNANDEZ	$15.00
MORALES/MCCULLOUGH or MORALES/RAMIREZ	$5.00 ea
MORRISON/HIDE or SAVARESE/DOUGLAS	$10.00 ea.
MORRISON/MERCER or MORRISON/RUDDOCK	$35.00 ea.
MOSLEY/TAYLOR, MOSLEY/DIAZ or MOSLEY/STONE	$20.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/CAMACHO or PAZIENZA/DURAN	$50.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/DURAN II or PAZIENZA/ROSENBLATT	$20.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/JONES or PAZIENZA/BROWN	$45.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/WHITAKER or TRINIDAD/PETTWAY	$20.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/THIAM or TRINIDAD/VARGAS	$25.00 ea.
TRIPLE HITTER - Duran/Sims, Hearns, McGuigan	$30.00
TYSON/BRUNO II or TYSON/MCNEELEY	$15.00 ea.
TYSON/DOUGLAS	$200.00
TYSON/HOLMES or TYSON/BIGGS	$35.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLYFIELD '91 BUD (Cancelled)	$25.00
TYSON/HOLYFIELD '96	$60.00
TYSON/HOLYFIELD II - 5/3/97 (Cancelled)	$5.00
TYSON/HOLYFIELD II	$10.00
TYSON/MATHIS or TYSON/GOLOTA	$35.00 ea.
TYSON/RUDDOCK II or TYSON/SAVARESE	$75.00 ea.
TYSON/STEWART or TYSON/FRANCIS	$50.00 ea.
TYSON/THOMAS or TYSON/SMITH	$85.00 ea.
TYSON/TUBBS or TYSON/HOLYFIELD 91 PROMO (Can.)	$135.00 ea.
TYSON/TUCKER or TYSON/TILLMAN	$45.00 ea.
MUHAMMAD ALI or IRON MIKE TYSON POSTER	$15.00 ea.
SUGAR RAY LEONARD S.I. or WHITAKER/JACOBS	$15.00 ea.
HBO -Jones, Delhoya, Lewis, Hamed	$3.00
HBO POSTER featuring 11 color photos of fights	$5.00

FIGHT PROGRAMS

1976 OLYMPIC PRG. (Ray Leonard)	$250.00
1984 OLYMPIC BOX-OFFS (Tyson, Holyfield, etc.)	$500.00
ALI/BUGNER or ALI/MATHIS	$400.00 ea.
ALI/BUGNER (CC) or ALI/LISTON REFEREE PROG	$100.00 ea.
ALI/COOPER II or ALI/LONDON	$350.00 ea.
ALI/FOREMAN (CC) or ALI/FRAZIER III (CC)	$100.00 ea.
ALI/FOREMAN (CC, Neiman) or ROBINSON/TURPIN	$300.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER (CC) or HOLYFIELD/QAWI	$150.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER II or ALI/QUARRY II	$500.00 ea.
ALI/HOLMES or ALI/NORTON III	$125.00 ea.
ALI/NORTON (warehouse find) Now just	$75.00
ALI/NORTON II or ALI/YOUNG	$600.00 ea.
ALI/QUARRY or ALI/LONDON	$300.00 ea.
ALI/ROBINSON	$450.00
Muhammad Ali Dinner Program	$35.00
BENN/MCCLELLAN or BENITEZ/HAMSHO	$50.00 ea.
BOWE/GOLOTA I or II	$35.00 ea.
CAMACHO/HAUGEN II or CAMACHO/PAZIENZA	$35.00 ea.
CAMACHO/ROSARIO or LEWIS/TUA	$50.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/CAMACHO or MERCER/MORRISON	$40.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/GAMACHE or CHAVEZ/MITCHELL	$35.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR or CHAVEZ/RANDALL	$35.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/WHITAKER (Cover Scuffed) or CHAVEZ/KAMAU	$15.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II or DELAHOYA/CARR	$30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/GONZALEZ or DELAHOYA/WHITAKER	$45.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/KAMAU or DELAHOYA/RIVERA	$25.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/GATTI or VARGAS/QUARTEY	$35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY or DELAHOYA/TYSON	$45.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/RUELAS or DELAHOYA/COLEY	$35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD or DELAHOYA/MOSLEY	$35.00 ea.
DURAN/BARKLEY or HOLMES/COONEY	$75.00 ea.
DURAN/MANAFEE or NORRIS/LEONARD	$60.00 ea.
FOREMAN/SAVARESE or GRANT/SAVARESE	$25.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN II or McGUIGAN/PEDROZA	$50.00 ea.
HAGLER/HEARNS or HAGLER/ROLDAN	$60.00 ea.
HAGLER/MUGABI or HAGLER/OBEL	$45.00 ea.
HAMED/KELLY or HAMED/VAZQUEZ	$40.00 ea.
HAMED/BARRERA or CAMACHO/DURAN	$35.00 ea.
HEARNS/BARKLEY I or II	$35.00 ea.
HEARNS/BENITEZ or MANCINI/CAMACHO	$75.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN or HEARNS/CUEVAS	$125.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BOWE I, II or III	$75.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/HOLMES or HOLYFIELD/MOORER	$45.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/RUIZ II or LEWIS/MORRISON	$35.00 ea.
JONES/SOSA or JONES/GRIFFIN	$25.00 ea.
LEONARD/CAMACHO or HOLMES/MERCER	$25.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN III or HOLYFIELD/FOREMAN	$75.00 ea.
LEONARD/FINCH or LEONARD/LALONDE	$60.00 ea.
LEONARD/HEARNS I or II	$65.00 ea.
LEWIS/BRUNO or HOLYFIELD/BEAN	$45.00 ea.
LEWIS/TUCKER or LEWIS/GOLOTA	$30.00 ea.
LOUIS/CONN II, LOUIS/NOVA or LOUIS/MAURIELO	$500.00 ea.
MANCINI/CHACON or MANCINI/ESPANA	$25.00 ea.
MANCINI/KIM or MANCINI/VALDEZ	$90.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/BURGESE, JONES JR./JOHNSON	$60.00
PAZIENZA/DURAN I or II	$25.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/JONES or PAZIENZA/GRAHAM	$40.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/ROSENBLATT I or II	$20.00 ea.
SANCHEZ/LOPEZ	$375.00
TRINIDAD/WHITAKER or TRINIDAD/VARGAS	$35.00 ea.
TSZYU/CHAVEZ or TYSON/NORRIS	$35.00 ea.
TYSON/BOTHA or TYSON/FRANCIS	$50.00 ea.
TYSON/BRUNO or TYSON/HOLMES	$100.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLYFIELD I or II	$20.00 ea.
TYSON/MCNEELEY or TRIPLE HITTER- Duran/Sims, Hearns	$25.00 ea.
TYSON/RUDDOCK I or II	$95.00 ea.
TYSON/SAVARESE, TYSON/SMITH or TYSON/MATHIS	$45.00 ea.
TYSON/STEWART or TYSON/TILLMAN	$75.00 ea.
TYSON/SPINKS or TYSON/WILLIAMS	$85.00 ea.
TYSON/TUBBS or TYSON/DOUGLAS	$125.00 ea.
WHITAKER/NELSON	$25.00

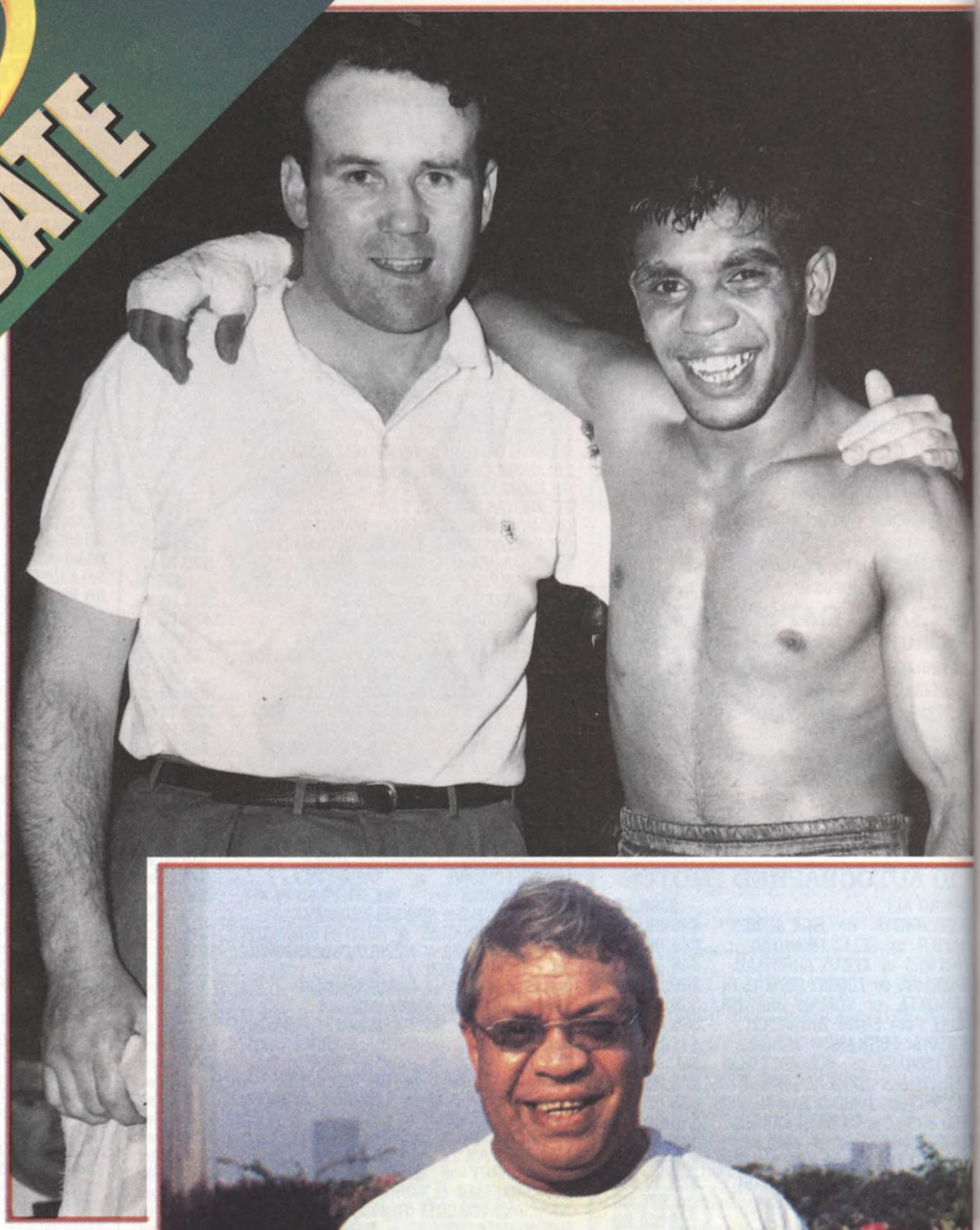
AUTOGRAPHED BOXING GLOVES

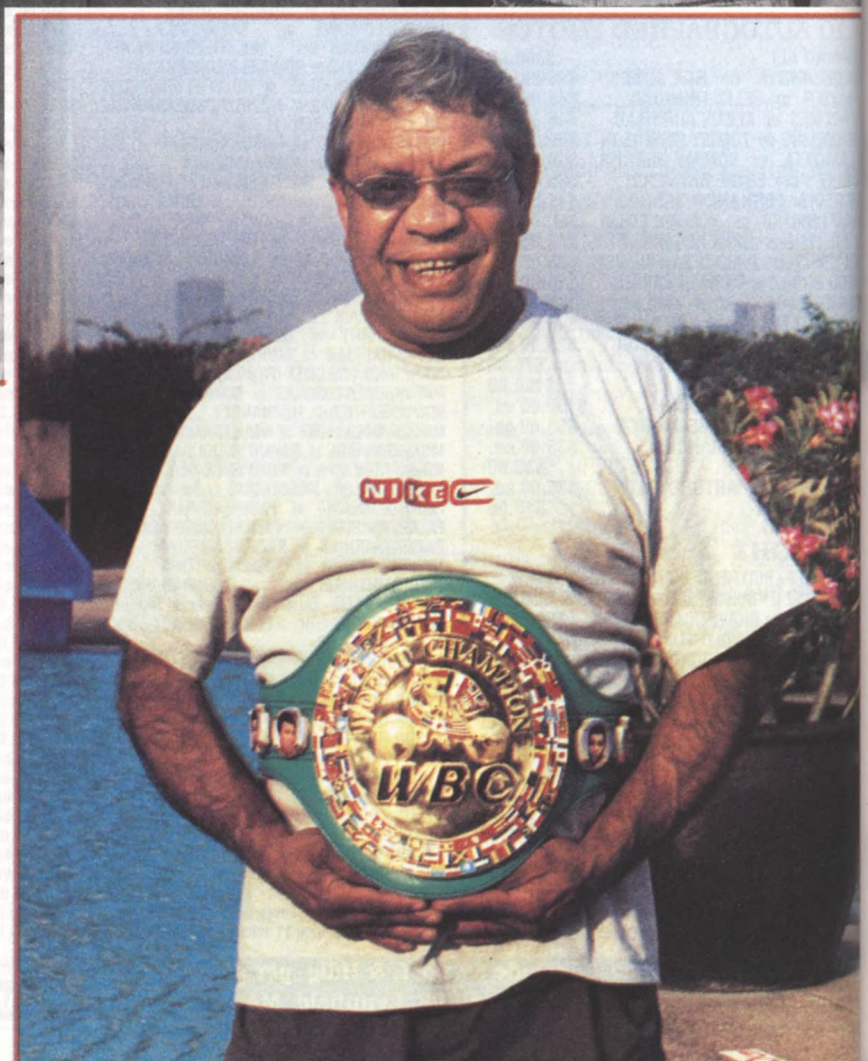
(Single Gloves, Guaranteed Authentic)

Roberto Duran or Johnny Tapia	$110.00
Joe Frazier or Jake LaMotta	$175.00 ea.
Muhammad Ali	$375.00
Marvin Hagler, Kid Gavilan or Willie Pep	$150.00 ea.
Sugar Ray Leonard or Hector Camacho	$125.00 ea.
Ray Mancini or Arturo Gatti	$100.00 ea.
Shane Mosley or Naseem Hamed	$150.00 ea.
Mike Tyson	$225.00
Vinny Pazienza or Bobby Czyz	$100.00 ea.
Larry Holmes, Tommy Morrison or Alexis Arguello	$125.00 ea.
Oscar de la Hoya or Roy Jones	$195.00 ea.
Carmen Basilio or Vito Antuofermo	$95.00 ea.
Archie Moore or Lennox Lewis	$200.00 ea.
LEONARD & DURAN (By Both)	$200.00
Tommy Hearns	$175.00

Ordering Instructions: Please include $7 post. & Hdlg. per package (Foreign Countries $15 per package ground or $23 air)
Send To: BOB PACE, Dept. Ring, P.O. Box 698, Lynnfield, MA 01940 or call with AMEX, Disc., VISA or MC — (781) 284-4954

The Ring Update





By Ted Lerner

Lionel Rose never worried about material possessions. When he won the world bantamweight title in 1968, after a shocking 15-round unanimous decision over the legendary Fighting Harada in Japan, he became Australia's biggest sporting hero ever and a very rich man. But for this aboriginal Australian, the money and toys mattered little. He preferred to live the way of his people. You live for today. What money you do have you enjoy and you spend on your family, which in the extended structure of Australia's indigenous people, can number in the hundreds.

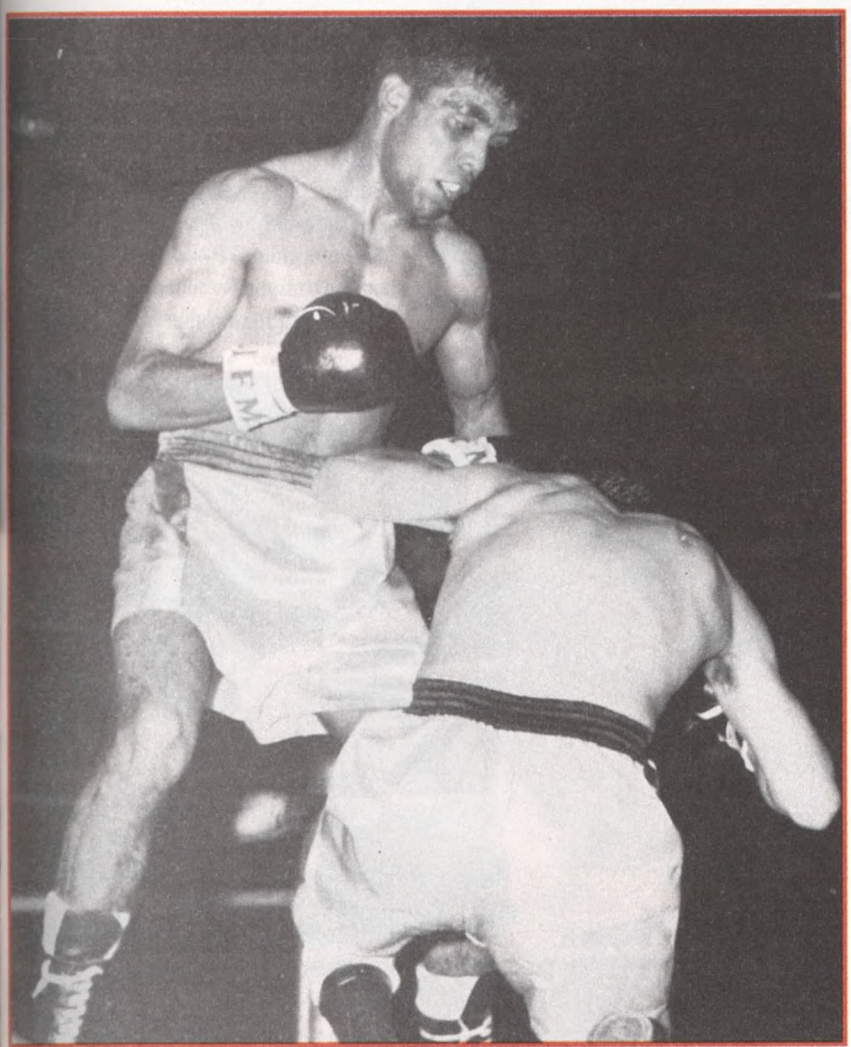
Rose did have one material possession, though, that truly meant something to him, that he swore he would never let go of—his title belt.

"Aboriginals are not material," said Rose's wife, Jenny, while in Thailand recently, where she and her husband were guests at the annual WBC convention.

Then and now: Rose with manager Jack Rennie in 1966 (top), two years before Rose won the bantamweight title, and at the 2001 WBC convention in Thailand, where Rose was presented with a new belt (right).

LIONEL ROSE

"He Would Give You The Shoes Off His Feet"



Rose puts Canadian bantamweight champ Jackie Burke on the deck en route to a sixth-round TKO in Melbourne, Australia. Rose was a hit with the fans practically from the start of his pro career.

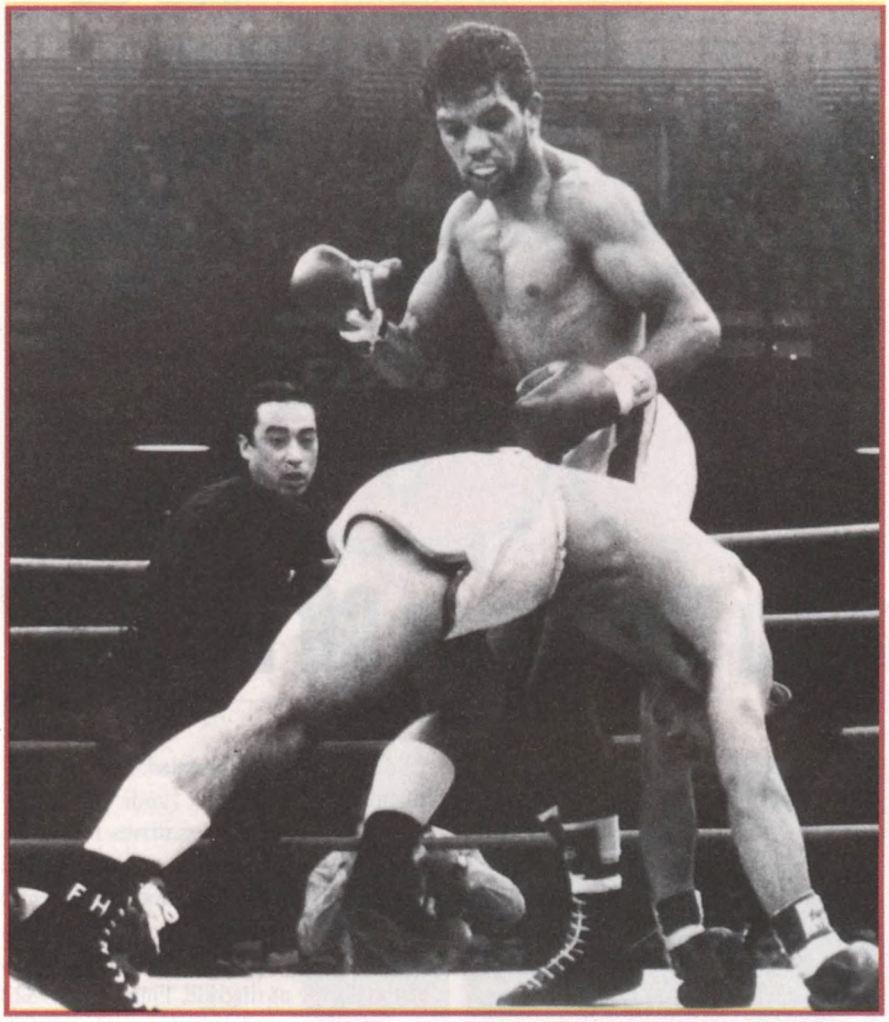
"We're very family oriented. But that belt is important."

"That's what a fighter strives for," said Rose. "That's a treasure."

Ironically, Rose had to wait 14 years to get the actual belt. That's because when he took the title from Harada, there was no belt available at ringside. Finally, in 1982, the WBC corrected the wrong and awarded Rose a belt, in lieu of the one he never received. But 13 years later, Rose did what he thought he would never do. He willingly parted with his most treasured material possession, in a magnanimous gesture of generosity that perhaps helped save the life of a young boy.

It was 1995 and Rose had been visiting a friend, a fellow aborigine, in Northern Australia, when a call came. His friend's six-year-old son, Jandamurra O'Shane, had been playing in the schoolyard when a man, recently released from a mental hospital, rushed into the yard and poured gasoline over the boy's head and body and set him on fire. The boy was horribly burned over much of his body, and he was unconscious and on the verge of dying. Rose knew the boy and knew that Jandamurra, like all aborigine kids, revered the man they all called their "Uncle Lionel."

"Jandamurra was like all the indigenous kids," Rose said. "He'd brag to all the other children: 'My uncle Lionel is a champion. He's a hero.'"



Fighting Harada slips to the canvas during the ninth round of his fast-paced 1968 title fight with Rose in Tokyo, Japan. Rose won the title via 15-round decision in a major upset.

These were values Rose learned fro his father and mother and a large extende family that numbered in the hundred Rose was born in 1948, at a time whe Australia's aborigines were not even cla sified as citizens. He was the eldest of l children, six boys and six girls. The fami lived in a one-room hut made of tree ba with no electricity in the far-flung abori ine community of Jackson's Track, whic consisted of 100 families, all of them rela ed and all of them poor.

Rose's father worked as an axman (tre cutter) and "tent" fighter, which is simil to the booth fighters that used to be fou at carnivals. He would often take you Lionel out to shoot rabbits and kangaroo His father's clan, the Goontigamarra, w known as a tribe of fighters and warrio Some of Rose's other relatives also used work as tent fighters.

"We didn't know we were poor," sa Rose. "We were happy."

It wasn't until he was 10 years ol when the family was moved 10 kilometer to the nearest city as part of the whi Australian government's assimilation pr gram, that Rose began to understand h people's predicament.

"I didn't know discrimination until I m the white man," Rose said. "That's how learned to fight."

Rose and his brother were the only t

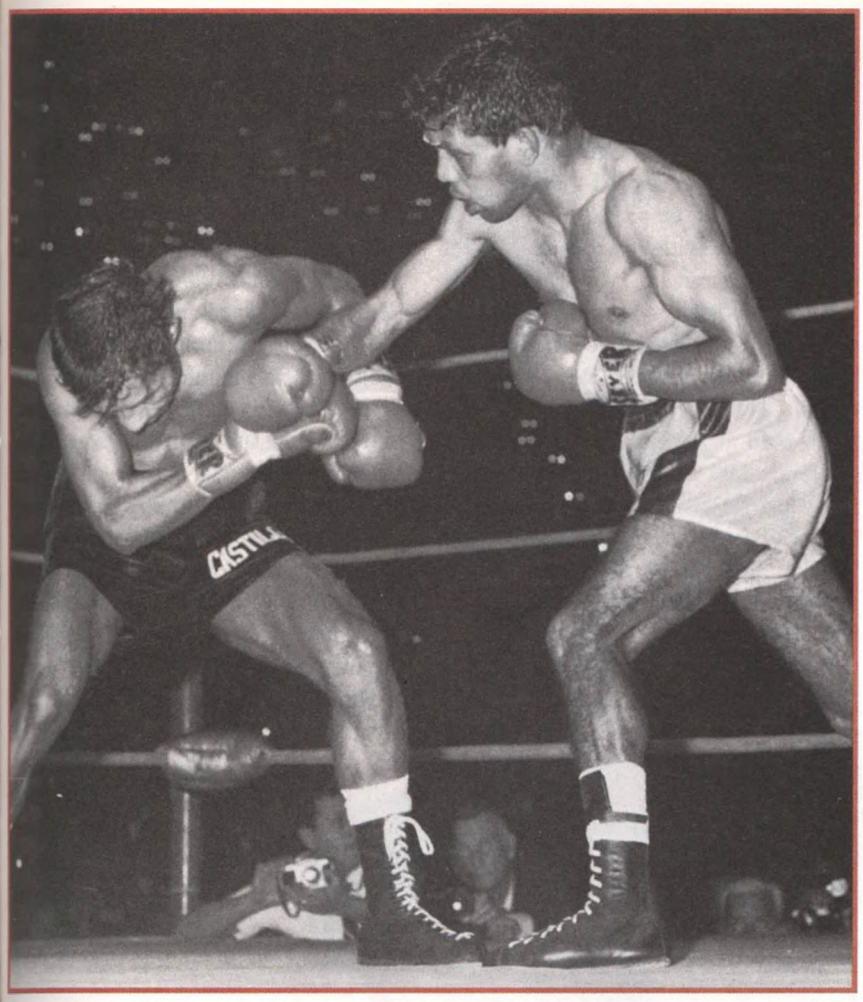
Crushed by the boy's sudden and terrible fate, Rose felt driven to do something. He immediately called up his wife in Melbourne and told her to retrieve his WBC belt, put it in a box, and mail it to the hospital where Jandamurra lay fighting for his life. The nurses were to put the belt on top of the boy's bed so he would see it if and when he woke up.

It was a quiet gesture, done without any fanfare or media coverage. Although the belt meant everything to Rose, he never gave a second thought about giving it to the boy.

"That belt is a spiritual thing to me," Rose said. "It's part of me. I was giving my spirit to him. I think it helped."

Indeed, the boy woke up a month later. He went on to have 27 skin grafts and, while he still has complications, he is now getting on with his life. When he got out of the hospital, Jandamurra offered to give the belt back, but Rose said no.

Rose returned to Japan for his first defense of the title, where he tallied a 15-round decision ov Takao Sakuari. The aboriginal boxer was still only 20 years old at the time.



Rose tags Chucho Castillo with a right (above) during their 1968 title fight in Inglewood, California. When the Aussie retained the title with a controversial decision, fans rioted. The morning afterward, Rose got to read all about it the newspaper (right).

aborigines in a school of 150 whites.

"After a week, we fixed 'em up," Rose said, laughing. "They started it; we finished it."

When he was 14, Rose found his way to the Warguoo Youth Club, where the manager and trainer of the club, Frank Oakes, already had a small stable of six fighters, all of them white. Oakes immediately took a liking to Rose.

"He took me under his wing," Rose said. "I stayed at his house every weekend. He was an absolute gentleman."

It was a life-changing meeting in more ways than one. Not only was it the beginning of a boxing career, but Rose also met Oakes' daughter, Jenny, who would later become his wife. Finding inspiration in two aboriginal ring legends, lightweight George Bracken and middleweight Dave Sands, Rose dropped out of school and dedicated himself to boxing. He had his first amateur fight a year later and lost, but won 18 straight over the next two years.

When Rose turned pro in 1964, Oakes introduced him to Jack Rennie, who at the time was one of Australia's leading trainers and managers. Rose moved to Melbourne and into Rennie's house.

"He taught me to get up at six and to be in bed by eight," Rose said of Rennie, with whom he's still close.

"Lionel had natural ability and a willingness to learn and train hard," said Rennie, whose connections helped put Rose on Australia's biggest fight cards.

"Lionel's ability and skills quickly earned him a big following," Rennie said. "Aboriginal boxers are the underdogs, and the white public supports them more so than the white boxers. Generally, the aboriginals have quick reflexes, they're hard punchers, they're brave and tough."

It was a potent mixture that made Rose a main event fighter almost from the beginning, drawing packed houses whenever he fought, usually every two months for four straight years. Then, in 1968, he got a lucky break. Number-one ranked Jesus Pimentel was scheduled to challenge champion Fighting Harada. When Pi-

mentel broke his hand in training, Harada's handlers skipped over the next three challengers, who, like Pimentel, were Mexicans, and went right to the fifth-ranked Rose, a virtual nobody outside of Australia.

"They picked the Aussie because they thought he'd be easy," Rose said, smiling. "They got the shock of their lives."

Rose was a 10-1 underdog, but the odds clearly seemed much longer. The trip to Tokyo was long, and the snow and bitter cold was something Rose had never before experienced. He was not only facing a ring legend in Harada, but also 17,000 partisans packed into Tokyo's Budokan Hall and three Japanese judges who would have nothing to gain by seeing Rose claim the belt. Nobody expected Rose to win, which no doubt accounts for why only seven people saw him off at the airport in Australia.

Although Harada had struggled to make weight, he came out in his typical whirlwind fashion. The two went toe-to-toe for 15 rounds and produced a classic war that is still talked about by those lucky enough to have seen it.

"The Harada fight was a hard one from start to finish," said Rennie. "Harada's style was to attack from the start and never let up. For 15 rounds Lionel had to fight all the way. His fitness and boxing skills won him the decision."

Rose had become not only the first aboriginal world champion, but also the first native-born Australian world champion in any sport, and when he returned to Melbourne a few days later, over a quarter of a million people turned out to greet him, lining the streets from the airport to the city.

"When I saw the crowds at the airport, I first thought that there must be a rock star on the plane," recalled Rose.

But then he realized the crowds were there for him.

"I was on top of the world. I was overcome. I cried. I came from boiled lollies [a cheap candy] to gold chocolate. It was a bit hard to handle."

Rose did a pretty good job of handling his ring duties for the next year-and-a-half, fighting seven times and establishing a reputation on three continents as a tough and thrilling fighter. After a defense in Japan, Rose got an offer from Los Angeles promoter George Parnassus, who was known for making fights between Mexicans and Americans. He wanted Rose because he wanted the bantamweight title, but Rennie was worried about getting cheated.

"I was warned not to take him to America," Rennie said. "I told Parnassus of this worry, so he promoted Lionel in a non-title fight with Jose Medal, a hard-punching Mexican."

Rose won easily via unanimous decision, so Rennie agreed to return to the U.S. Next, Parnassus matched Rose with number-one challenger Chucho Castillo. The fight, held at the Forum in Inglewood, California, was another all-action slugfest. But when Rose won a split decision, the pro-Castillo crowd went ballistic.

"The Mexicans were a hostile crowd," said Rennie. "When Lionel got the decision, they rioted and set fire to the Forum and threw bottles at us. We couldn't leave the Forum until the early hours of the next day."

Rose made one more successful defense after that, outpointing Alan Rudkin, b Parnassus eventually got the bantamweig belt when Rose lost the title to Rub Olivares in August '69 via fifth-rou TKO.

"He was better than I was," said Rose Olivares. "He was probably the greate fighter I've ever seen."

In all, Rose fought five times in t States, two title and three non-title bouts.

"He was liked in the States for his bo ing style," Rennie said, "which was a mi ture of boxing and fighting. He nev shirked an issue and always gave go value for money."

"He was a passionate fighter," sa WBC President Jose Sulaiman, who s several of Rose's fights at the Forum. "H never ran away. Every one of his figh was a thrill. He fought three superheroes Mexico and defeated two of them."

Rose made the move up to junior ligh weight and fought for the WBC belt in '7

Rose loves to sing and play, and after he retired from the ring he cut several records that became hits Australia. Unfortunately, Rose also experienced some alcohol abuse problems after quitting the ring.

losing a decision to Yoshiaki Numata. By then, Rose had been fighting every two months for seven years and was burned out. In 1971, at the age of 23, he retired. He made a brief comeback in '75 and retired for good in '76.

Outside the ring, Rose's fame and fortune brought him a life he never dreamed of, and he lived it to the fullest. He put out several records, two of which went gold. He drove race cars. He made a fortune and spent it on whatever he pleased. He bought several businesses, then sold them after a few years. He traveled around giving speeches and signing autographs. When he was in Los Angeles, he met Elvis Presley when Elvis called him up and invited him over to the closed set of one of his movies. There were books written about him, and even several television mini-series were produced. He was the first ever aborigine selected as a Member of the British Empire and the first ever aborigine voted Australian of the Year.

Rose said he made more than $1-million in the short time he was champ, but admits that most of it is long gone. Still, he has no regrets.

"I spent all my money," he said with a smile. "I enjoyed it. You've got to enjoy yourself."

Rose also gave much of his money to his extended family.

"He paid for all the aboriginal funerals in his area," said journalist and Orient & Pacific Boxing Federation president Frank Quill, a longtime friend of Rose. "Lionel would give you the shoes off his feet."

After his fighting days were over, the good life eventually caught up with Rose. He had problems with alcohol and he ran afoul of the law several times. He suffered ridicule in some sectors, but remained a hero to a mostly understanding public.

"He's very easygoing," said Jenny, who works as a schoolteacher. "Nothing worries him."

Rose eventually turned his life around. These days he lives modestly with Jenny in an apartment in Melbourne. He works as a volunteer for the Aborigine Sports Commission, giving speeches to indigenous youth, and is still in big demand to appear at functions.

It was several years ago when Quill, who happens to also be the WBC ratings committee chairman, received a request from a local magazine that wanted to do a story on Rose. The magazine specifically wanted to take Rose's picture with his WBC belt. When Rose told Quill that he no longer had the belt and that it was now with Jandamurra, Quill knew something had to be done.

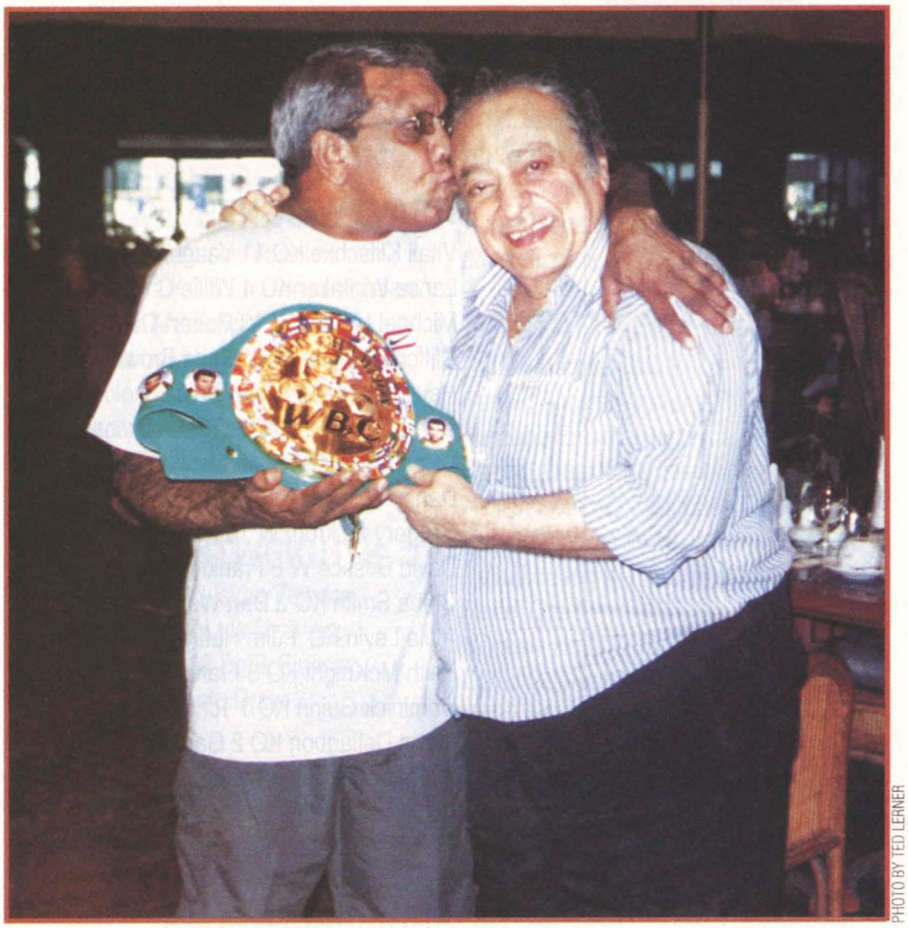


PHOTO BY TED LERNER

Best of buddies: Rose thanks Jose Sulaiman with a big wet one after the WBC president gave the fighter a new belt at the WBC convention in Thailand last December.

"I got in touch with Jose Sulaiman and I told him the story," Quill said. "He agreed to give Lionel a new belt."

The WBC and the OPBF paid for Rose and Jenny's airfare and hotel bill for the WBC's annual convention in Pattaya, Thailand, this past December. Quill informed Jenny what was in store, but kept it a secret from Rose.

At a packed banquet at Pattaya's Ambassador City hotel, Rose's selfless deed to help a young boy in need was recognized and honored by the international boxing community, which gave him a brand new WBC title belt. Upon receiving his shining new belt, Rose broke down and cried.

"He gave away his most treasured possession," said Jenny, shaking her head in disbelief, "then out of the blue he gets another belt, and in front of all these boxing people. He's a good role model. Aborigines don't have a lot of role models."

"I admire him very much," said Sulaiman. "He's the perfect representative of an authentic champion. After retirement, he went through some sad moments, but he was able to defeat his vices. He was not only a great champion, but a man of nobility."

"The belt is nothing," an emotional Rose said after the presentation. "I just wanted to help the young fellow."

But, of course, the belt is everything to a champion, as was obvious moments later by the way Lionel Rose tightly clutched the one material possession in this world he values the most.

"I'm blessed," Rose said, looking down at his new belt. "This is the icing on the cake." ■

Ted Lerner is a freelance journalist based in the Philippines and an occasional contributor to this magazine.

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Vitali Klitschko KO 11 Vaughn Bean
Lance Whitaker KO 4 Willie Chapman
Michael Moorer W 10 Robert Davis
Clifford Etienne KO 7 Gabe Brown
Ray Mercer KO 1 Troy Weida
Derrick Jefferson W 10 Phil Jackson
Lamon Brewster KO 3 Nate Jones
Danny Williams KO 7 Michael Sprott
Gregory Pickrom W 10 Ed Mahone
David Bostice W 8 Frankie Swindell
China Smith KO 3 Dan Ward
Attila Levin KO 1 Jim Huffman
Keith McKnight KO 3 Frankie Hines
Dominick Guinn KO 1 Tony LaRosa
David Defiagbon KO 2 Gary Winmon
Wade Lewis KO 1 Melvin Lumsey
Paolo Vidoz KO 2 Marco Heinichen
Michael Bennett W 5 Andreek Payne
Butterbean KO 4 Craig Wolfley

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Vassiliy Jirov W 12 Jorge Castro
(Retains IBF Title)
Jean-Marc Mormeck KO 8 Virgil Hill
(Wins WBA Title)

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Welterweights Hercules Kyvelos and John Molnar let the bombs fly

Vincenzo Cantatore KO 5
Hector Alfredo Avila
Ravea Springs KO 11 William Guthrie
Tim Flamos W 10 Hector Sanjurjo
Rich LaMontagne W 6 Dan Sheehan
Marcus McGee KO 1 Ricky Gaeto

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Roy Jones KO 7 Glen Kelly
(Retains World Title)
Montell Griffin KO 1 George Klinesmith
Julio Gonzalez KO 2 Tyrone Armstead
Mads Larsen W 8 Ramon Arturo Britez
Silvio Branco KO 1 Jurgen Hartenstein
Rodney Moore W 12 Manu Ntoh
Toks Owoh W 8 Mondli Mbonambi
Alejandro Lakatus KO 1 Zdravko Kostic
Julien Chamayou W 10 Yohan Gimenez
Joey DeGrandis W 8 Kenny Snow
Daniel Judah W 8 Robert Davis
Ronald Boddie W 6 Bertrand Tchandjeu

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Syd Vanderpool W 10 Mondli Mbonamby
Mehdi Sahnoune W 12 Andrei Shkalikov
Mario Veit W 8 Dan Sheehan
Mikkel Kessler KO 5 Manny Sobral
Anthony Hanshaw W 10 Dana Rucker
Andre Thysse W 12 Xolani Ngemntu
Ruben Groenewald W 10 Wayne Asker
Kabary Salem W 8 Troy Barnes
Anthony Farnell KO 3 Matt Galer
Derrick Whitley W 6 James Coker
Jeff Lacy KO 1 Glenn Thomas

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Bernard Hopkins KO 10 Carl Daniels
(Retains World Title)
Robert Allen W 12 Dwain Williams
Erland Betare W 8 Eliseo Nogueira
Kirino Garcia KO 10 Eduardo Gutierrez
Byron Mackie W 12 Alex Hilton
Gary Jones W 8 Sam Garr
Maselino Masoe KO 2 Setafano Vasuibau
Kenny Ellis KO 8 Candy Robertson
Tony Bonsante W 10 Gustavo Sato
Kelly Pavlik KO 2 Robert Dasoyan

Matthew Hatton W 6 Paul Denton
Stephan Pryor W 4 Greg Beerman
Ottavio Barone KO 3 Peter Abel

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Winky Wright KO 5 Jason Papillion
(Retains IBF Title)
Jose Luis Castillo KO 8
Juan Angel Macias
(Non-Title Bout)
Steve Roberts KO 4 Troy Lowry
Kassim Ouma W 10 Michael Lerma
Kofi Jantuah KO 8 Bobby Heath
Luther Smith KO 2 Oba Carr
Gary Lockett KO 4 Kevin Kelly
Cleveland Corder KO 4 Roni Martinez
Marcos Primera W 6 Andrey Trunov
Brad Thompson KO 1 Emmitt Davis
Dante Craig KO 1 Ray Shanks

WELTERWEIGHTS

Thomas Damgaard KO 3
Elias Policia Cruz
Danny Perez KO 7 Sebastian Valdez
Juan Carlos Rubio W 10
Francisco Bojado
Derrell Coley KO 3 Otilio Villareal
Jawaid Khaliq KO 12 Maxim Nesterenko
Hercules Kyvelos W 10 John Molnar
Michel Trabant KO 2 Mahan Washington
Manning Galloway W 8 Marlon Thomas
Maxim Nesterenko W 6 Sergey Starkov
Fred Kinuthia W 12 Noufel Ben Rabah
Kermit Cintron KO 2 Omar Davila
Miguel Figueroa W 8 Jaime Morales
Carlos Quintana KO 1 John Scalzi
Jeffrey Resto KO 1 Cornell Shinholster
Sumya Anani W 8 Britt Van Buskirk

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Randall Bailey KO 3 Demetrio Ceballos
(Wins Vacant WBA Title)
Ricky Hatton KO 9 Mikhail Krivolapov
Vivian Harris W 12 Michael Clark
Emanuel Burton KO 8 Jesus Santiago
Dorin Spivey W 10 Mike Stewart
Ivan Kirpa KO 5 Mark Ramsey
Eamonn Magee KO 6 Jon Thaxton
Ricardo Williams W 10
Anthony Washington
Ubaldo Hernandez W 10
Juaquin Gallardo
Juan Carlos Rodriguez KO 7 Noel Cortez
Bradley Pryce KO 9 Gavin Down
Ernie Zavala W 10 Eduardo Castillo
Andre Eason W 8 Delvin Rodriguez
Dmitriy Salita W 4 Abdul Blackburn

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Julien Lorcy W 8 Victor Hugo Paz
Stefano Zoff W 6 Assen Vassiliev
Zimela Mpusula KO 6 Lawrence Ngobeni
Isidro Tejedor W 8 Edwin Santana
Leavander Johnson W 10 Jesus Zatarin
Justo Sencion KO 8 Omar Vasquez
Juan Diaz W 8 Juan Carlos Juarez
Courtney Burton No-Contest 1 Danny Rios
Lucia Rijker KO 4 Carla Witherspoon

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Guty Espadas W 10 Isidro Tejedor
David Santos W 12 Luis Lizarraga
Pedro Miranda W 12 Boris Sinitsin
Ernesto Zepeda Tech. Draw 2
Jesus Zatarin
Jorge Paez KO 2 Tom Johnson
Javier Jauregui Tech. Draw 5
Ryuhei Sugita
Wilfredo Vazquez W 8 Jose Rodriguez
Laszlo Bognar W 6 Oanea Florin
Gary St. Clair W 8 Pongpet Muangsurin
Toshikage Kimura KO 6 Kangil Cho
Nate Campbell KO 8 James Baker
Nate Campbell W 8 Joseph Figueroa
Alex Arthur KO 2 Vladimir Borov

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Juan Carlos Ramirez W 10 Jesus Salud
Hector Acero-Sanchez W 12
Victorio Abadia
Enrique Jupiter W 10 David Murillo
Takashi Koshimoto W 10
Saengsi Poh Chaiwattana
Orlando Soto W 12 Hector Velasquez
Shoji Kimura W 10 Wichit Chuwatana
Juan Ruiz W 6 John Nolasco
Rocky Juarez W 6 Jorge Garcia

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Paulie Ayala W 12 Bones Adams
(Wins Vacant World Title)
Willie Jorrin D 12 Osamu Sato
(Retains WBC Title)
Yoddamrong Sithyodthong W 12
Yober Ortega
(Wins WBA Title)
Heriberto Ruiz KO 8 Arturo Valenzuela
Israel Vazquez W 10 Oswaldo Guerrero
Jose Luis Valbuena KO 12 Ernesto Grey
Hugo Soto KO 7 Juan Jose Herrera
Nedal Hussein W 10 Somporn Muangsurin
Steve Molitor KO 5 Scotty Olson
Roger Gonzalez KO 6 Jose Saez
Joan Guzman W 10 Armando Guerrero

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Rafael Marquez KO 8 Mark Johnson
Saohin Sithchai Condo KO 3
Bernabe Enthatar
Spend Abazi KO 2 Jose Antonio Fuente
Nicky Booth KO 7 Stephen Oates
Ricardo Vargas W 10 Jhonny Gonzalez
Kulaabdaeng Kiatkuririn W 12
Rodel Orias
Nobuaki Naka D 10 Ryuichi Minoriyama
David Guerault W 6 Daniel Sassou Kodjo
Brahim Asloum W 8 Marcos Obregon

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Saen Sor Ploenchit W 10 Richard Carrillo
Yokthai Sithoar KO 2 Edwin Custador
Julio Coronel W Disq. 12 Vernie Torres
Meiji C.P. Gym D 12 Choe-Pyong Guk
Hussein Hussein KO 5 Kahar Sabitov

FLYWEIGHTS

Saman Sorjaturong KO 3 Koki Tanaka
Wandee Singwangcha W 6
Sherwin Alferez
Vic Darchynian KO 3 Win Sakpanya
Abel Ochoa W 4 Liborio Romero

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Yosam Choi KO 10 Shingo Yamaguchi
(Retains WBC Title)
Jungoh Son W 10 Yura Dima
Mhikiza Myekeni KO 10 Mzingisi Lindi

STRAWWEIGHTS

Keitaro Hoshino W 12 Joma Gamboa
(Regains Vacant WBA Title)
Chana Porpaoin KO 6 Jack Comain
Miguel Barrera KO 4 Pedro Rodriguez
Songkram Porpaoin KO 5 Pikmy
Muangchaiyaphum
Isaac Bustos KO 10 Valentin Leon
Numchai Ratanachaigym W 12 Jun Arlos
Hiroyuki Abe D 10 Hiroshi Kasamatsu

EVERLAST®
SINCE 1910

PRESENTS

The RING

FIGHTER of the MONTH

Fighters like Sugar Shane Mosley don't come along very often. He says all the right things, l smiles at all the right times, and, most importantly, his brilliant boxing ability translates into brilli performances virtually every time out. The last thing boxing needed was for Mosley to get beaten and have his perfect record spoiled.

But if it had to happen, at least it was Vernon Forrest who handed out the beating. Forrest says all right things and smiles at all the right times, too. The one shortcoming is that he hasn't produced b liant performances every time he's fought. But he sure turn one in at The Theater at Madison Square Garden January 26, when he knocked Mosley down twice in the s ond round en route to a lopsided decision win and the wo welterweight title.

Forrest has never been blessed with the best of luck, an was unfortunate for him that his pasting of Mosley was san wiched in the weekend between the Lennox Lewis-Mi Tyson press conference brawl and Tyson's unsuccessful re censing hearing in Nevada. But who cares if Forrest-Mosl didn't make the mainstream splash it deserved to? The re boxing fans know what Forrest did and how important was. The new welterweight champ may not have been t Biter of the Month, but he was definitely the Fighter of t Month.

PHOTO BY JESSE D. GARRABRANT/GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO BY ELIOT SCHECHTER/GETTY IMAGES

• • • •

Vernon Forrest

RINGSIDE REPORTS

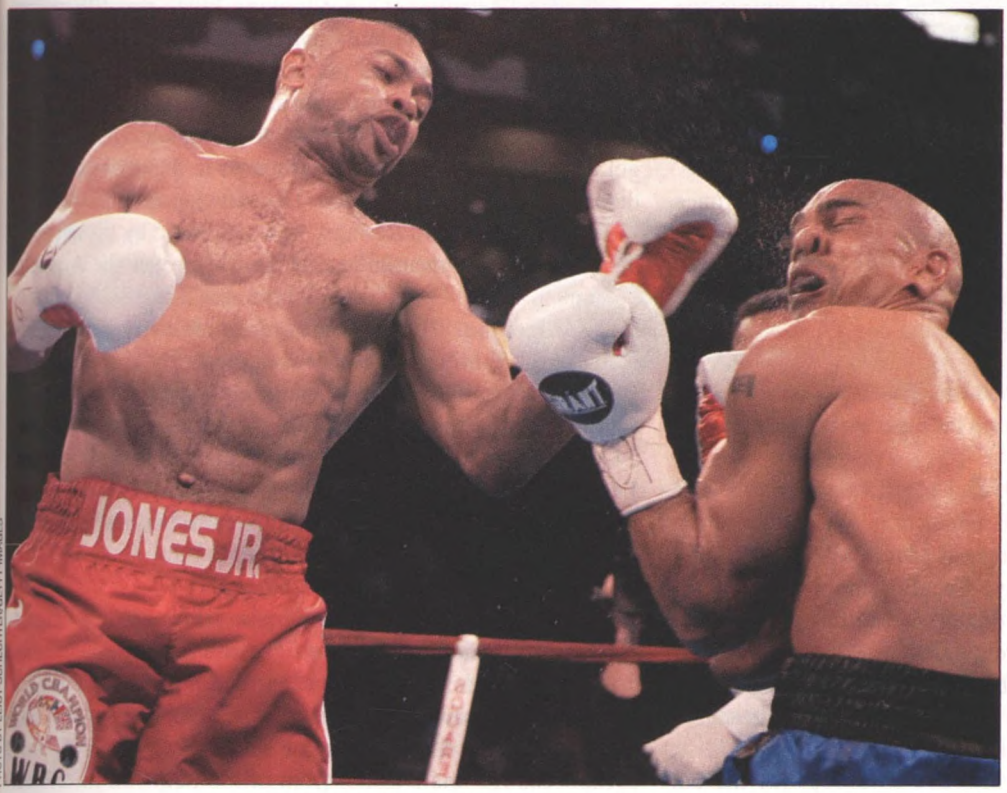


PHOTO BY ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

Jones sends hapless Kelly down in the third round

Roy Jones KO 7 Glen Kelly

Miami, Florida: Jones' domination of the light heavyweight division, not to mention the super middleweight and middleweight divisions before that, is akin to a gunman with a quick, accurate first shot. The gunman's badge tells you he's sheriff, while Jones' belts tell you he's champion. In both cases, their status is undisputed.

It was difficult not to feel sorry for challenger Kelly, 28-1-1 (15), as the bell rang for round one. For within seconds, what many feared was apparent. Like many outgunned challengers before him, the previously unbeaten native of Sydney, Australia, was about to learn that speed does indeed kill.

After a prefight, on-air verbal exchange with middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins, Jones, 46-1 (37), entered the ring at the half-empty American Airlines Arena as fired up and focused as he's ever been. At 33, he still possesses not only the speed and quickness of his youth, but the ability to land any punch in his arsenal with devastating effect. As it turned out, this fight—his 10th defense of the WBC title and his sixth defense of the unified championship—was one of the easiest of his career.

In round three, he dropped Kelly, who was rated number one by the IBF, third by the WBA, and seventh by the WBC, with a lead left uppercut thrown from the outside. Three rounds later, Kelly, 174½, was felled by a crushing left hook to the body. Although the 30-year-old Australian beat the count on both occasions, he never mounted a meaningful offense nor did he land any noteworthy punches.

Between rounds six and seven, Jones' trainer, Alton Merkerson, told the champ to go out and finish the fight, since he "has somewhere else to go." So Jones, 172, Pensacola, Florida, sent Merkerson and Kelly on their way in round seven.

The third and final knockdown was amazing. Midway through the round, the champion retreated to the ropes. He then crouched, with both hands behind his back like chicken wings. Jones then lashed out and landed a right to the temple that sent Kelly down for good. Kelly got to his knees, where referee Max Parker Jr. (USA) counted him out at 1:55 of the round.

After the fight, Jones dismissed talk of a rematch with Hopkins, who he scored a one-sided decision over in 1993, saying he'd rather defend the title against top light heavyweight contenders like Clinton Woods of England, who attended the fight. "I told Hopkins a long time ago: If you want to fight me, win a super middleweight title," Jones said. "Give me something to come take away from you. I love titles."

Television: HBO
Promoter: Square Ring
(2-2-02)
Ed Maloney

Winky Wright KO 5 Jason Papillion

Miami, Florida: There is nothing like a dominating, classy performance to help a fighter's stock. Wright produced just that, scoring an impressive fifth-round TKO over Papillion in the on-site co-feature to the Jones-Kelly main event at American Airlines Arena.

Wright, who was making his first defense of the IBF junior middleweight title he won against Robert Frazier in October, was in control of the fight from the opening bell. The southpaw beltholder from St. Petersburg, Florida, who is regarded more for his flash and defensive skills, used a mixture of jabs, hard lefts, and stinging bodypunches that kept the 32-year-old Papillion, 149½, Broussard, Louisiana, from getting into any semblance of rhythm. While the fifth-ranked challenger did score with occasional flurries, they were more defensive in

tone, as Wright, 153¼, pressed the action, throwing and landing many more punches throughout the bout.

Wright's dominance increased in each round, thanks in no small part to his impressive bodywork. Midway through round five, Wright 43-3 (25), landed a hard right to the head that sent Papillion, 34-7-1 (22), into the ropes. The titlist followed in hot pursuit and scored to the head and body. A 30-second barrage was punctuated by a series of brutally impressive bodypunches that prompted referee Bill Connors (USA) to stop the bout at 2:44 of the fifth.

"I was shocked I took him out so early," the 30-year-old Wright said. "To people who say I don't hit hard, just keep watching. The more money I make, the harder I hit."

Wright is anxious for a big money title fight with marquee names like Oscar De La Hoya or Fernando Vargas, the latter of whom he lost a close decision to in 1999. But he'll have to first take on IBF mandatory challenger Bronco McKart, over whom he already owns a pair of 12-round decisions.

Promoter: Square Ring
(2-2-02)
Ed Maloney

Randall Bailey KO 3 Demetrio Ceballos

Reading, Pennsylvania: Knockout artist Bailey produced a picture-perfect right hand to kayo Ceballos and win the vacant WBA super lightweight title on the Bernard Hopkins-Carl Daniels undercard at the Sovereign Center. What happened to Kostya Tszyu, who took the WBA belt from Sharmba Mitchell last year? Well, he's now one of the organization's so-called "super champions," so the belt was up for grabs.

The first two rounds were uneventful, except for the cut Ceballos, 139½, Colon, Panama, suffered in the opening round. There was plenty of missing and holding by both men, and the capacity crowd of 8,243 vented its displeasure by booing.

The boos turned to gasps of awe in the third, however, when Bailey, 140, Miami, Florida, followed a jab with a hellacious right that plowed into Ceballos' jaw and sent him down on his back. Ceballos, 24-4 (15), was so obviously out, referee Rudy Battle (USA) abandoned his count and awarded Bailey a knockout win at the 1:03 mark.

Ceballos, 28, had been stopped before, by Shane Mosley and Steve Johnston, but neither had taken him out with one punch.

"I've got great power," said the 27-year-old Bailey, 25-1 (25). "That's why I've won all of my fights by knockout. Now I'm working on my jab, footwork, and boxing, so I never ge outboxed."

Promoter: Don King
(2-2-02)
Nigel Collins

Vassiliy Jirov W 12 Jorge Castro

Phoenix, Arizona: It's not looking likely that IBF cruiser weight titlist Jirov and WBC counterpart Juan Carlos Gome the top two 190-pounders in the world, will ever meet in th ring. But with Jirov's mandatory defense against the flabby faded, but still competent Castro at the Celebrity Theater, w got a strong hint as to who the top man in the division is—an the news is not good for Jirov. His status as number-two mar reflected in THE RING Ratings, was confirmed by his one-sided but unimpressive unanimous decision win over the Argentin veteran.

In December 2000, Gomez defended his belt again Castro—a slightly younger, leaner, and probably better ver sion—and dominated every round en route to becoming th first to stop the former middleweight titlist. Against Jirov, th 34-year-old Castro had his moments, enough to remind us tha Jirov's supposedly skillful showing in his previous outing against Julian Letterlough, was more an indictment of the lim ited Letterlough than a testament to the Arizona-base Kazakh's boxing ability.

Against Castro, 187, the southpaw Jirov, 189, was in com plete control when he kept the fight at a distance, jabbing an positioning himself so that Castro could land nothing i return. Castro, his sizeable belly overshadowed slightly by hi bright-red-dyed hair, had some success when Jirov woul eschew caution and stand in front of him, but still the 27-year old titlist got the better of most of those inside exchanges. I was an easy fight for Jirov through five rounds, but he hit rough spot in the sixth, when he had Castro up against th ropes and ate two counter right hands, causing him to wobbl

Ref Rudy Battle attends to kayoed Ceballos

forward and hold on to the challenger. Instantly, comparisons to the Cuban Gomez did not look favorable for Jirov, who was making his sixth defense.

Jirov recovered quickly though and hurt Castro with a right to the head in the seventh, and his trademark body attack slowed the Argentine enough that he never put together another serious threat. But whereas Gomez grinded Castro down, floored him, and forced a stoppage, Jirov never came close to producing an early ending. He won by unanimous scores of 119-110 from judges Lou Moret (USA), Aaron Kizer (USA), and William James (USA).

Jirov, 31-0 (27), earned $150,000, while Castro, 119-8-3 (83), was paid $60,000.

The referee was Bobby Ferrera (USA).

Television: ESPN2

Promoter: Sugar Ray Leonard Boxing

(2-1-02)

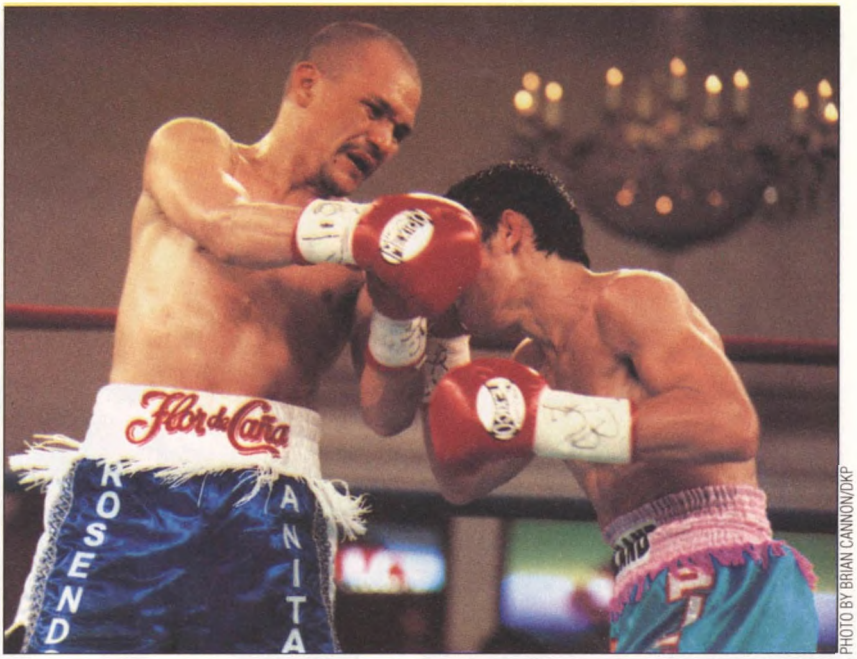


PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

Siriwat leans into a left from Alvarez

Rosendo Alvarez KO 12 Pichit Siriwat

Miami, Florida: Watching Alvarez methodically dismantle former titlist Siriwat made you realize just how good Ricardo Lopez is. As brilliant as Alvarez was against his Thai opponent, he continues to labor in the shadow of the Mexican legend. Alvarez wants to be remembered as the first man to defeat Lopez, not merely the first to knock him down and twice extend him to the limit, only to fall short in a technical draw and a split-decision loss.

If the greatness of a fighter is measured by how he performs against championship-caliber competition, then Alvarez showed on this night that he is one of the best in the sport today. And in the process, he retained the WBA light flyweight title for the first time. Siriwat, 108, showed a champion's heart, but Alvarez trumped that with superior speed and firepower.

The atmosphere was electric as hundreds of Alvarez' countrymen packed the card room of the Miami Jai Alai Fronton, chanting "Rosendo," "Bufalo" (the champion's nickname), and "Nicaragua" (his native land). They did their best to intimidate Siriwat, lustily booing him as he made his way to the ring and again when he was introduced by the ring announcer.

Siriwat was trying to regain the title he held for more than three years, until he was stripped in 2000 for not fighting Alvarez, then the mandatory challenger. The first three rounds were close, and a case could be made that Siriwat, a quick-handed, counterpunching southpaw, won two of them. Alvarez, 31, landed crisp right hands, but Siriwat responded with equally impressive left hands upstairs that kept Alvarez, 108, wary.

Things changed dramatically in the fourth round when a series of Alvarez right hands drove the Thai against the ropes for the first time in the fight. Alvarez followed up by tagging Siriwat with more right hands to the head. By the time the round ended, the skin under Siriwat's left eye was swelling and the tide that would eventually overwhelm the challenger was turning.

As the middle rounds wore on, Siriwat's punch output declined and what shots he did land had very little effect. Two constants were Alvarez' unrelenting pressure and unerring accuracy. In the waning seconds of round seven, the titleholder drove Siriwat into the Thai's corner with a right-left combination, then unleashed a string of jarring right hands to the head.

By the eighth round, Siriwat, 25-2 (12), had nothing left but a magnificent heart, and that just wasn't enough. Alvarez clocked the challenger with combinations and, with about 15 seconds remaining in the stanza, dropped him with a four-punch combination highlighted by a hard right hand.

Even though he knew he had his man in serious trouble, Alvarez remained patient, coolly waiting for openings to appear; when they did, Alvarez blistered Siriwat with an impressive array of thunderous crosses, hooks, and uppercuts. The first half of round 12 felt anticlimactic as Alvarez, 31-2-1 (20), appeared to be coasting to an overpowering decision. But then a right-left-right combination dropped Siriwat in his own corner. Siriwat arose at American referee Armando Garcia's count of eight, but Alvarez drove the challenger into his corner with a series of headshots, bringing Garcia to Siriwat's rescue at the 2:10 mark.

"I wanted to put on a great fight for the fans here and on television," said Alvarez. "I wanted to show everyone that I am the best junior flyweight in the world. That's what Don King pays me to do." He hopes that King will pay him handsomely for yet another fight against Lopez, saying, "I want to fight him again. Ricardo is a great fighter, but I can beat him."

Siriwat, 26, was disappointed with his performance, blaming it on not having enough time to properly prepare, the

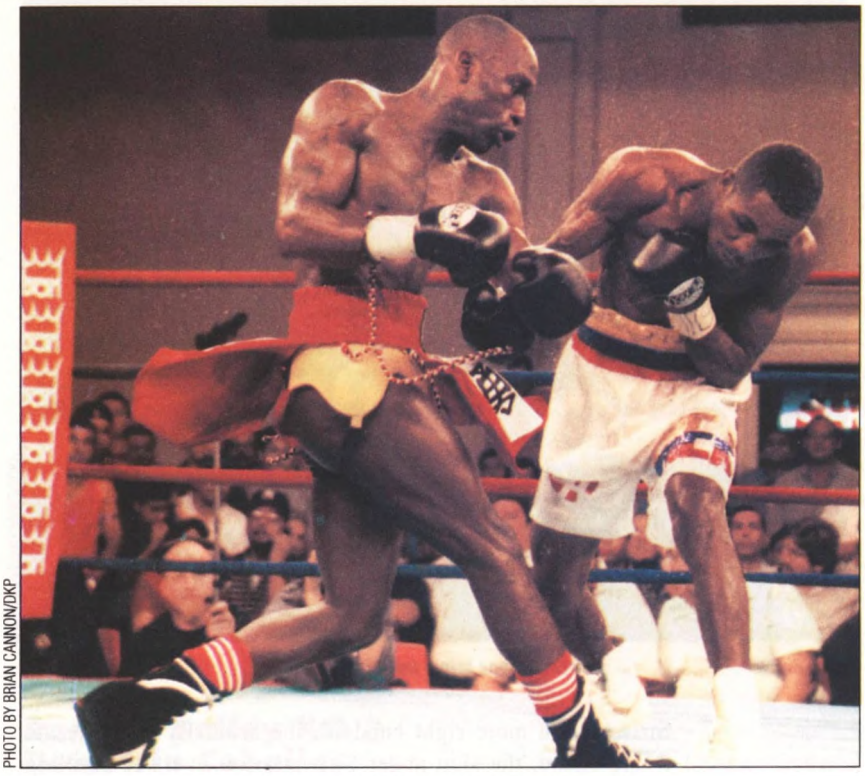


PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

Quick-fisted Corley cracks Julio with a left

swelling around his left eye, and fighting "in a foreign country with a foreign crowd." He also rightly credited Alvarez as being "one of the best fighters I have ever fought, and he was the winner by far. I expect him to be champion for a while."

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Don King Productions

(1-19-02)

Ken Knox

DeMarcus Corley W 12 Ener Julio

Miami, Florida: Corley hoped that by beating Julio in a battle between two of the top junior welterweight contenders, he would put himself at the top of unified champion Kostya Tszyu's dance card. Whether that will happen remains to be seen, but Corley didn't hurt his chances by scoring a convincing decision win, though it must be said that his opponent was not even close to the top of his game.

Julio last fought in July 2000, when he took the WBO belt from Randall Bailey by split decision. The resulting 18 months of ring rust was evident; Julio's timing was off, his punches were slow, and he could not get out of the way of most of Corley's shots.

Julio, 140, Colombia, not only wanted to take back the WBO belt he said Corley was merely "borrowing" from him, he also sought to avenge a controversial 12-round split-decision loss to Corley in the latter's hometown in September 1999.

Corley, 140, Washington, D.C., got the shot at this title last June when Julio was diagnosed with cataracts only days before his scheduled first defense against Felix Flores. Corley made the most of the opportunity, obliterating Flores inside of one round to claim the vacant belt. Julio became the mandatory challenger.

The "cheeky" champion entered the ring in the card room of the Miami Jai Alai Fronton clad in a revealing, red on-white breech cloth with his nickname, "Cho Chop," inscribed in Chinese script on the fron The first round was a study in caution by bot fighters, but that changed in the second stanz when Corley began utilizing his superior han speed. The result: a flash knockdown of Juli compliments of a short left hand to the head. Th hole in which Julio found himself deepened i round three when Corley landed a cuffing righ hand behind the head, sending the Colombian t his gloves and knees for a second knockdow Julio began finding the range with right hands i the fourth round as he pressed Corley, 27-1- (16), against the ropes and connected with series of right hands to the body and head. B Corley countered with stinging left hooks an right hands.

Julio, 28, hurt his own cause in the sixt round when he pulled Corley to the canvas, the landed a left hand to the head while Chop Cho was down along the ropes. Referee Jorg Alonso (USA) issued a two-point deduction fo the foul. The Colombian won round eight, bu Corley swept the next two frames, even thoug he went down in the 10th when his legs becam entangled with Julio's while both were throwing punches. Alons correctly ruled that it was not a knockdown.

Julio won the 11th round on all three official scorecards, bu Corley rebounded by sweeping the final round. The scoring hel no surprises: Paul Herman (USA) scored it 119-105; Lar Hazzard Jr. (USA) had it 117-107; and Elmo Adolph (USA) sa it 118-107.

Julio, 21-4 (16), acknowledged that the extended layof affected his performance, and he refused to give any credit t his conqueror, saying that he did not think Corley ha improved since their first fight.

The 27-year-old Corley slammed Julio as a dirty fighter.

"He forearmed me all night," Corley said. "I took a knee [i round six], and he hit me with a dirty shot. When he got me on th ropes, he was hitting me low on the left side of my cup, and h gave me a little forearm up in my throat like Tito Trinidad di Bernard Hopkins. But we maintained our composure and jus boxed him."

He said the difference between this fight and the first time the met was him, not Julio. "He fought the same, the same way. Corley said, "only two years ago, I wasn't in the shape that I'm i now and I didn't have the experience that I have now from m trainers."

Corley said if he fails to secure a unification bout wit Tszyu, he would be willing to travel to England to defen against unbeaten powerpuncher Ricky Hatton, the WBO number-one contender.

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Don King Productions

(1-19-02)

Ken Knox

Keitaro Hoshino W 12 Joma Gamboa

Yokohama, Japan: Slick-punching former titlist Hoshino, 23-7 (6), 105, Japan, re-acquired the vacant WBA 105-pound belt as he cleverly covered himself up against the harder shots of fellow former titlist Gamboa, 31-7-1 (22), 104¾, Philippines, caught him with more accurate combinations, and pounded out a unanimous verdict over 12. Hoshino had also decisioned Gamboa to begin his previous title reign, back in December 2000. Since then, Hoshino had lost the belt to Chana Porpaoin, who then lost it to Yutaka Niida, who promptly created this vacancy by retiring without making a single defense.

The taller Gamboa attempted to outjab his speedy opponent from the start, but Hoshino averted the jab and retaliated with precision. Hoshino swept the fifth through eighth rounds with busier combinations. Gamboa took the ninth, but the skillful Japanese regained his initiative in the 10th and 11th.

In the final round, the 28-year-old Filipino tried to score a come-from-behind kayo with big shots, but Hoshino fought back with combinations of his own in the closing seconds of the final session.

Judge Erkki Meronen (Finland) had it 117-112, Jean Louis Legland (France) scored the bout 118-110, and Wansoo Yuh (Korea) saw it 118-112, all for the 32-year-old Hoshino. The referee was Pinit Prayadsab (Thailand).

"Hoshino was smart, and improved since our first encounter," said Gamboa. "I will move up to the 108-pound division after this setback."

Promoters: Hanagata Promotions, Teiken Promotions
(1-29-02)
Joe Koizumi

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Polo scores a fourth-round knockdown, but Chacon would get up to win

Julio Pablo Chacon W 12 Victor Polo

London, England: Naseem Hamed will have lost no sleep through Chacon's debut appearance in England to defend the Sheffield featherweight's old WBO belt. The Argentinian took six rounds to get going against Colombian challenger Polo, and his battered face at the end of 12 rounds showed all the scars of a split decision victory at York Hall that hardly supported his boasts that he would beat Hamed and any other 126-pounder in the world.

Johnny Tapia, who also fought for the first time in England on the undercard, was more impressive (though far more easily matched) in stopping Chacon's compatriot, Eduardo Alvarez, in the opening round, endearing himself to the locals in the process and looking significantly more capable of troubling Hamed, having now moved up to the featherweight division. Promoter Frank Warren's plan is to match Chacon and Tapia and perhaps entice Hamed—who was scheduled to make his return to the ring against Spain's Manuel Calvo on March 23, his first encounter since his comprehensive defeat to Marco Antonio Barrera last April—into a collision against one of the two later this year. British and Commonwealth champion Scott Harrison will also be thrust into the frame by Warren.

Chacon, 125½, found Polo's southpaw style problematic from the outset, suggesting strongly that Hamed's unorthodoxy would have him completely perplexed. Save for a good moment in round two when Chacon wobbled Polo, 125, with a five-punch combination, the Argentinian was thoroughly outclassed over the first half of the fight. Polo, 31, made the most of his advantage in height and reach, and by the end of the sixth round, seemed comfortably in control. A solid left in the fourth that put Chacon on the floor emphasized the Colombian's early superiority, and his sustained jabbing left the 26-year-old beltholder seemingly impotent in his efforts to gain a foothold.

It was only through digging deep with the fight slipping away from him that Chacon was able to bring about a dramatic reversal in fortunes. He was aided too by referee Roberto Ramirez' (Puerto Rico) dubiously awarded knockdown in the eighth round that seemed to owe more to Polo losing his footing by stepping on a piece of padding with an advertisement on it than an actual punch. But the momentum had turned. Chacon, 43-2 (31), showed great courage as he charged forward in the final rounds despite the heavy artillery that continued to come his way from Polo, 30-4-2 (22). Polo's work in those later rounds, however, lacked the polish he had demonstrated in the first half of the fight.

The decision of the three English judges was split. Paul Thomas had Polo up 114-113, while Roy Francis and Dave Parris scored for Chacon, 114-113 and 115-112, respectively. THE RING scored for Chacon, 115-112.

"This was not Chacon at his best. He can perform much better," insisted promoter Warren. "I'm sure he will show this in future fights."

Promoter: Sports Network
(1-19-02)
Brian Doogan

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Sato fires a right en route to draw with Jorrin

Willie Jorrin D 12 Osamu Sato

Tokyo, Japan: Unbeaten WBC 122-pound titlist Jorrin's streak of good fortune continues. Jorrin, 28-0-1 (13), 122, Sacramento, California, very barely kept his belt on a split draw as he dropped Japanese challenger Sato, 25-1-2 (14), 122, twice in the third round, but faded and became defensive thereafter. At the end of 12 heats at Ariake Coliseum, Maximo Barroveccio (Italy) scored it 114-114, Vincent Rodriguez (Philippines) had it 113-113, and Noparat Sricharoen (Thailand) saw it 114-112 for Sato, allowing Jorrin to squeak by with a majority draw. In his previous two fights, Jorrin won an unpopular decision over Michael Brodie to claim the vacant WBC belt, then captured another dubious decision, over Oscar Larios, in his first defense.

The slick-punching Jorrin easily swept the first thr rounds with sharper punches to the nervous challenger. round three, Jorrin, 32, sent Sato, 25, sprawling to the de with a left hook following a chopping right, but Sato beat t count of referee Terry O'Connor (England). Upon risin though, Sato was floored again with a flurry of punches, a he narrowly escaped the round.

Sato desperately began to mix it up from the fourth rou on, and he overwhelmed the abruptly fading Jorrin, who h been inactive for a full year. Sato seemed to dominate almo all of the remaining rounds with his busier combinatio though Jorrin occasionally threw countering shots. T American's face was bruised and he was bleeding from a ga over the left eye by the end due to Sato's persistent attack.

The official verdict dejected the crowd. Sato, who expect to call himself the new WBC king, deserves a rematch wi Jorrin or a shot at the winner of Jorrin's mandatory defe with Israel Vazquez.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions

(2-5-02)

Joe Koizumi

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Arturo Gatti KO 4 Terronn Millett

New York, New York: In his first start since getting spl tered by Oscar De La Hoya in March 2001, Gatti revitaliz his career with an impressive fourth-round knockout of form IBF junior welterweight titlist Millett on the Vernon Forre Shane Mosley card at The Theater at Madison Square Garde

That Gatti won was not a shock, but the way he accom plished his mission was a real eye-opener. Instead of launc ing the Kamikaze attack fans have become accustomed to, t crowd-pleaser from Jersey City mixed in a large portion boxing, utilizing skills he hasn't shown in years.

Gatti, who also displayed improved hand speed, moved in a out during the opening round, landing sharp rights. Millett, mea while, looked off-balance and missed most of his punches.

It appeared Gatti, 29, was reverting to his brawling ways

MIKE TYSON
First EVER
Authenticated
Signing

100%
Guaranteed
Authentic
Autographed
16x20 Photos
and Gloves
CALL TODAY

A&R Collectibles EXCLUSIVE
Ali vs Liston Photograph With An
Authentic Piece of Ali Worn Robe

(Actual Size)

The most famous photograph in sports History framed with an Actual piece of a fight robe worn by "The Greatest" Muhammad Ali.
A World-Wide Limited Edition of ONLY 200
Retail $160.00
Special Offer
ONLY $129.95
CALL TODAY
Toll-Free:
888-667-7767

A&R Collectibles - Toll-Free:888-667-7767 - www.arcollectibles.com

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENBAUM

A unique view of Millett in dire straits

the second, as he stood his ground more and gave Millett an opportunity to connect early with a series of right hands. Gatti slugged back to hurt Millett with a vicious bodyshot late in the round, but Millett retaliated with a combination in bristling two-way action.

After two rounds, it looked like anybody's fight, but Gatti remembered what he and new trainer Buddy McGirt had been working on in the gym, and went back to being a boxer-puncher in the third.

The 33-year-old Millett, who had put together a modest four-bout winning streak since losing the belt to Zab Judah in August 2000, had his right hand working well again at the start of the third. But Gatti, 141½, turned things around with a booming right, and shortly thereafter floored his adversary with a left hook. Millett beat the count, but was still unsteady when the bell came to his rescue.

After soaking up a combination and a right in the fourth, Millett, 141¼, St. Louis, Missouri, was decked again with a crushing right to the chin. Remarkably, he quickly regained his feet, but when a Gatti combination smashed into his head, sending Millett, 26-3-1 (19), down a third time, referee Jim Santa stopped the fight at the 2:23 mark.

"I always knew I had to go back to being a boxer-puncher again," said Gatti, who emerged without a cut for the first time in recent memory. "I'm done with that brawling style."

Gatti, 34-5 (28), also benefited from dropping down to junior welter following his loss to De La Hoya at 147.

"I'm putting myself in line for a title fight at 140," he said. "I think I could control that weight class."

Television: HBO

Promoter: Cedric Kushner Promotions

(1-26-02)

Nigel Collins

David Telesco W 10 Julian Letterlough

Raleigh, North Carolina: Telesco admitted afterward that this was his first tough fight since challenging Roy Jones in 2000, but any rust that had accumulated didn't prevent him winning what was ultimately a one-sided points victory over the game Letterlough.

After his pummeling at the hands of Vassiliy Jirov for the IBF cruiserweight title last year, Letterlough was looking to re-establish himself at light heavyweight, but Telesco, 26-3 (21), was sharper and more accurate in the early rounds. His movement successfully offset the aggression of Letterlough, 17-3-1 (16), who was unable to corner his opponent until the third, when he briefly pinned Telesco on the ropes and hurt him with an overhand right.

Letterlough marched forward in round four and while acknowledging a straight right from the 33-year-old Telesco, 177, continued to press the New Yorker. The fifth opened with some fierce exchanges as Telesco began to show some swelling around the eyes, but his superior technique was winning the rounds. However, by round seven, Telesco was tiring and moving less, and Letterlough began to find his range.

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's Letterlough, also 177, seemed to be pacing himself more effectively but was hurt late in the eighth round by a straight right, followed by a searing uppercut. Telesco followed up, but his attack was thwarted by the bell. The pace slowed in the ninth, but Letterlough's aggression carried the round.

The weary Telesco was driven to the ropes at the start of the last as Letterlough started to show some of the urgency that had been lacking in his work over the first half of the fight. "Mr. KO" tried to overwhelm the taller Telesco, but no consequential blows were landed, and both fighters received a standing ovation from an appreciative crowd at the Entertainment & Sports Arena.

The American judges went unanimously for Telesco, by 98-92 (Duane Ford and Joel Dovenbarger) and 99-91 (Bruce Foster). THE RING had it closer at 96-94, with Letterlough closing the gap over the last two rounds. Afterward, Telesco looked forward to a possible clash with Dariusz Michalczewski and said he would be willing to go to Germany. As for Letterlough, he can no doubt expect more appearances on ESPN2's *Friday Night Fights*, although his stock is slipping with three losses in less than a year.

Promoters: J & J Promotions, Star Boxing Promotions

(1-18-02)

Gregory C. Phillips ■

THE RING & KO PRESENT

GIANT-SIZED FOLDOUT SPECIALS

Includes. . .
A LIFE-SIZE 22" X 32" EIGHT-PAGE SUPER CENTERFOLD!

Stories, Records, Fight Facts, Analyses, And More!

- TYSON vs. SPINKS
- HOLYFIELD vs. FOREMAN
- LEONARD vs. HEARNS II
- LEONARD vs. DURAN III
- MIKE TYSON & THE HEAVYWEIGHT GREATS

ONLY $5
$21.95
FOR ALL FIVE!

Send money order or make check payable to:

London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

The RING & KO PRESENT

Please send me the Color Special I've checked below. I am enclosing $5 for each one I'm ordering, or $21.95 for all five.

☐ Tyson vs. Spinks ☐ Leonard vs. Hearns II ☐ Tyson & The Heavyweight Greats
☐ Holyfield vs. Foreman ☐ Leonard vs. Duran III

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

For all orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every issue to be delivered by surface mail, or $3 for every issue to be sent air mail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5353/09-00

New Face

(Continued from page 16)

brother, James. He's the closest one to me James and I have the same blood; he's my heart."

Eason, however, has been adopted by what is his boxing family. Yoel Judah father of former IBF junior welterweight titlist Zab, has been training Eason and has been a guiding force in Eason's life ever since he was an amateur, acting almost like a surrogate father to him. Through Yoel Eason has been able to spar with Zab and WBC super featherweight king Floyd Mayweather, both of whom have used Eason sporadically to prepare for big fights.

Yoel Judah is well-versed with Eason's roots. The veteran trainer raised his family in the same Brownsville section of Brooklyn that produced Mike Tyson. Judah knows all too well of the drug-infested, crime-ridden streets Eason somehow avoided.

"No, I never got involved in that stuff," Eason said. "I lived day to day, always surviving on my own, but I was never a gangsta like that. I'm a gangsta in the ring."

Frequently, when Eason would finish working out with the Judahs, Yoel would ask him where he was going. Eason would reply that he didn't know. One day, Yoel drove Eason home from a workout and found him having to navigate through debris and climb up rusty fire escapes in a building that appeared abandoned.

"Where Andre's from, you can't blink," stressed Yoel, who also manages Eason on a handshake agreement. "That day I drove him home, I said to myself, *Damn*. Andre is like a son of mine. I primarily look out for him. I'm trying to build him up. He's a kid who I just want to see make it in life. He has hardly any stability. Me and my family we're Andre's family. Andre grew up tough, very, very tough. For a kid to go through what he went through and still go to the gym, I didn't believe it. He survived stuff that would make you wonder how the kid was still alive."

Boxing was one of Eason's outlets to release all of the pent-up rage. It seemed all of his streetfighting had some crossover effect as an amateur. Eason was an instant success. In '96, he won the 139-pound New York City Golden Gloves title after just six

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Eason notched his most impressive victory by applying pressure to fellow prospect Delvin Rodriguez in a ShoBox *fight in February. The eight-round split decision win marked the fifth time Eason handed an opponent his first pro loss.*

amateur fights. Boxing is obviously in the Eason gene pool; older brother James won 125-pound Golden Gloves titles in '99 and '00. But James decided to quit boxing, and instead focused on getting a job. Andre, however, couldn't step away that easily. He would get pumped up watching videos of Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard.

"James just wanted to do the Gloves, that's all he wanted to do," Andre said. "He got a lot of attention, but I wasn't about to push him into boxing. James always knew that I'm the type of person who always did what he wanted to do. I wanted to keep on fighting."

Despite his amateur success, life was still a struggle for Eason. He couldn't consistently afford to pay for a gym, so he would train when he could. Yet, Eason obviously showed enough commitment for Yoel Judah to take an interest in him.

"I used to watch Andre in the gym when he was younger," Yoel said. "He showed me he had the spark, the gumption to be champion of the world. I just did a lot of things with his skill, particularly his defense. We worked on his defense a lot, and sometimes he got a little wild and started swinging. Now, he hits a little harder. I taught him how to work angles better, and he's a good listener."

Eason took another step toward Yoel's goal of one day becoming champion by beating previously undefeated Delvin Rodriguez on February 2 in Atlantic City, on a *ShoBox* card. Eason outworked Rodriguez most of the fight, stunned him several times, and won by a split decision. It was the first time Eason went eight rounds, and he finished it off by getting a little careless in the final round, deciding to slug with Rodriguez, who was 10-0-1 entering the bout.

"I thought Rodriguez would win the fight, to be honest with you, so I was surprised by Eason's performance," *ShoBox* blow-by-blow announcer Nick Charles said. "I thought Rodriguez would work behind his jab a little better and use his height, but Eason's work rate broke Rodriguez down. Eason opened my eyes. He beat Rodriguez to the punch, and I liked his pressure. I also liked the way he fought back after he got hit.

"As for weaknesses, I don't think he's as committed to his jab. Eason's a short junior welterweight, and he has to get closer to opponents. He just needs the jab to be a true combination puncher. He doesn't have great power on his punches, and if there isn't a lot of crack on his punches, he'll have to put punches together in flurries. When he did work his jab, he got in a lot easier, and when he did get in, he was able to do some damage."

But Charles brought up an interesting point about Eason: He likes to mimic Zab Judah, sometimes keeping his hands down by his sides and posing. While Zab has exceptional speed and can get away with doing that most of the time, Eason hasn't shown the physical tools to sway out of harm's way fast enough.

It's an area Yoel says he's working to correct. In the meantime, Yoel has Eason on a weight-training program for the first time in his career, and he would like Eason to improve his stamina, so he can become a harder puncher.

"I'm going to make a lot of upsets," Eason promised. "There are a whole bunch of people I'm going to beat, because I fight different people different ways. My style changes with each fight. If you want to brawl, I can brawl. I can adapt to any fighter."

Or, apparently, any situation. ■

"BOXING TECHNIQUES AND MOVES RARELY TAUGHT THAT WILL IMPROVE YOUR FIGHTING".

THE HOOKS OF ROBINSON, MARCIANO, FRAZIER AND HAGLER • HIDDEN ABILITIES OF WILLY PEP AND ALI • L/R HOOKS FROM "IMPOSSIBLE" ANGLES AND DISTANCES • RIPPING L. UPPERCUTS • UNCOMMON RIGHTS/JABS • FEINTS • SIDE-STEPPING • CIRCLING RIGHT • RETREAT-COUNTER • TOE-TO-TOE ROLL PUNCHING • DIVERSE (UNEXPECTED) SWITCH-HITTING FOOTWORK • COMBINATIONS IN MOTION (FAST RHYTHM, ALL DIRECTIONS) • BOUNCE-PUNCHING OFF THE ROPES • SURVIVAL AND CRAFTY MOVES (INCLUDING SOLUTIONS TO 100 YEAR OLD TRICKS) ARE TAUGHT BY "JESSE" RODRIGUEZ. 5 MAJOR TECHNIQUES WILL HELP YOU CREATE MORE PUNCHING ANGLES AND NEW STRATEGIES. FOR 3 VHS VIDEOS (14 HOURS) SEND $65.00 M.O. ($99.00 FOREIGN) PAYABLE TO:
"JESUS" RODRIGUEZ 5701-D BELLAIRE #93, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77081 USA

No other trainer in the world can show you even a fifth of the things shown on my series, guaranteed. J.R.

www.boxingimprovement.20m.com

MOVING?

Kindly give us 8 weeks advance notice

Are you moving? If so, please give us 8 weeks advance notice so we can continue to service your subscription promptly. Check the magazine(s) below to which you subscribe:

☐ BOXING 2002
☐ WORLD BOXING
☐ KO
☐ THE RING

NAME

OLD ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

NEW ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

EFFECTIVE DATE

CLIP THIS FORM AND SEND TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 2029, DEPT. 9
MARION, OH 43302

5757/09-01/4c

ALPHABET RATINGS

The Rankings of Boxing's Three International Governing Bodies

WBA RATINGS

(Ratings as of December 2001)

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Champ: John Ruiz (USA)
1. Kirk Johnson (CAN)
2. Evander Holyfield (USA)
3. Vitaly Klitschko (UKR)
4. Mike Tyson (USA)
5. Fres Oquendo (PR)
6. Nicolay Valouev (RUS)
7. Oliver McCall (USA)
8. Jameel McCline (USA)
9. Larry Donald (USA)
10. Hasim Rahman (USA)
11. Chris Byrd (USA)
12. Vaughn Bean (USA)

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Champ: Virgil Hill (USA)
1. Jean Marc Mormeck (FRA)
2. Alexander Gurov (UKR)
3. James Toney (USA)
4. Wayne Braithwaite (GUY)
5. Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)
6. O'Neil Bell (USA)
7. Ezra Sellers (USA)
8. Vincenzo Cantatore (ITA)
9. Luis Pineda (PAN)
10. Jorge Castro (ARG)
11. Dale Brown (CAN)
12. Louis Azille (DR)

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS

Super Champ: Roy Jones (USA)
Champ: Bruno Girard (FRA)
1. Lou Del Valle (USA)
2. Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)
3. Reggie Johnson (USA)
4. Clinton Woods (GB)
5. Thomas Hansvoll (NOR)
6. David Telesco (USA)
7. Antonio Tarver (USA)
8. Mads Larsen (DEN)
9. Glencoffe Johnson (USA)
10. Robert Koon (USA)
11. Julio Gonzalez (USA)
12. Montell Griffin (USA)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Champ: Byron Mitchell (USA)
1. Vacant
2. Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)
3. Thomas Tate (USA)
4. David Starie (GB)
5. Dana Rosenblatt (USA)
6. Julio Cesar Green (DR)
7. Manuel Siaca (PR)
8. Mehdi Sahnoune (FRA)
9. Antwun Echols (USA)
10. Omar Sheika (USA)
11. Mikkel Kessler (DEN)
12. Rudy Markussen (DEN)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Super Champ: Bernard Hopkins (USA)
Champ: William Joppy (USA)
1. Felix Trinidad (PR)
2. Howard Eastman (GB)
3. Keith Holmes (USA)
4. Hassine Cherifi (FRA)
5. Darren Obah (AUSTRL)
6. Cristian Sanavia (ITA)
7. Ryan Rhodes (GB)
8. Tito Mendoza (PAN)
9. Sam Hill (USA)
10. David Reid (USA)
11. Antonio Perugino (ITA)
12. Erland Betare (FRA)

SUPER WELTERWEIGHTS

Champ: Fernando Vargas (USA)
1. Vacant
2. Mamadou Thiam (FRA)
3. Roman Karmazin (RUS)
4. Santiago Samaniego (PAN)
5. Jose Flores (MEX)
6. Frank Olsen (DEN)
7. J.C. Candelo (COL)
8. Ike Quartey (GHA)
9. Kevin Kelly (USA)
10. Travis Simms (USA)
11. Michael Rask (DEN)
12. Akira Ohigashi (JAP)

WELTERWEIGHTS

Champ: Andrew Lewis (GUY)
1. Ricardo Mayorga (CR)
2. Thomas Damgaard (DEN)
3. Michael Trabant (GERE)
4. Chantel Stanciel (USA)
5. Michele Piccirillo (ITA)
6. James Page (USA)
7. Jose Rivera (USA)
8. Carlos Baldomir (ARG)
9. Hiroyuki Maeda (JAP)
10. Danny Perez (USA)
11. Arturo Gatti (USA)
12. Frederic Klose (FRA)

SUPER LIGHTWEIGHTS

Super Champ: Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)
1. Hector Camacho Jr (PR)
2. Randall Bailey (USA)
3. Sharmba Mitchell (USA)
4. Khalid Rahilou (FRA)
5. Demetrio Ceballos (PAN)
6. Ricky Hatton (GB)
7. Oktay Urkal (TUR)
8. Terronn Millett (USA)
9. Gianluca Branco (ITA)
10. Antonio Diaz (USA)
11. Soulemane M'Baye (FRA)
12. Ben Tackie (USA)

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Champ: Raul Balbi (ARG)
1. Vacant
2. Stefano Zoff (ITA)
3. Julien Lorcy (FRA)
4. Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)
5. Miguel Callist (PAN)
6. Sandro Casamonica (ITA)
7. Angel Manfredy (USA)
8. Edson Xuxa Nascimento (BRA)
9. Alex Trujillo (PR)
10. Juan Lazcano (USA)
11. Juan Gomez-Trinidad (PR)
12. Rick Yoshimura (JAP)

SUPER FEATHERWEIGHTS

Champ: Joel Casamayor (CUB)
1. Lakva Sim (MON)
2. Yodsanan Nanthachai (THAI)
3. Lamont Pearson (USA)
4. Jorge Barrios (ARG)
5. Jongkwon Baek (KOR)
6. Michael Gomez (GB)
7. Kinji Amano (JAP)
8. Tontcho Tontchev (BUL)
9. Jose Miguel Cotto (PR)
10. Carlos Hernandez (SAL)
11. Silvano Usini (ITA)
12. Roberto Garcia (USA)

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Champ: Derrick Gainer (USA)
1. Vacant
2. Daniel Seda (PR)
3. Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)
4. Naseem Hamed (GB)
5. Victor Polo (COL)
6. Philip Ndou (SA)
7. Lewis Woods (US)
8. Johnny Tapia (USA)
9. Istvan Kovacs (HUN)
10. Injin Chi (KOR)
11. Takashi Koshimoto (JAP)
12. Kengo Nagashima (JAP)

SUPER BANTAMWEIGHTS

Champ: Yober Ortega (VEN)
1. Yoddamrong Sithyodthong (THAI)
2. Salim Medjkoune (FRA)
3. Walter Estrada (COL)
4. Israel Vasquez (MEX)
5. Kozo Ishii (JAP)
6. Osamu Sato (JAP)
7. Johnny Armour (GB)
8. Michael Brodie (GB)
9. Enrique Sanchez (MEX)
10. Nadel Hussein (AUSTRL)
11. Oscar Larios (MEX)
12. Somsak Sithchachawan (THAI)

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Champ: Eidy Moya (VEN)
1. Vacant
2. Leo Gamez (VEN)
3. Johnny Bredahl (DEN)
4. Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)
5. Rafael Marquez (MEX)
6. Diego Morales (MEX)
7. Spend Abazi (DEN)
8. Adan Vargas (MEX)
9. Mark Johnson (USA)
10. Ratanachai Vorapin (THAI)
11. Genaro Garcia (USA)
12. Noriaki Naka (JAP)

SUPER FLYWEIGHTS

Champ: Celes Kobayashi (JAP)
1. Alexander Munoz (VEN)
2. Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)
3. Mbwana Matumla (TNZ)
4. Sornpichai Pisnurachank (THAI)
5. Hideki Todaka (JAP)
6. Kazuhiro Ryuko (JAP)
7. Adonis Rivas (NIC)
8. Jesus Rojas (VEN)
9. Katsushigo Kawashima (JAP)
10. Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)
11. Luis Bolanos (COL)
12. Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)

FLYWEIGHTS

Champ: Eric Morel (USA)
1. Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)
2. Mzukisi Sikali (SA)
3. Isidro Garcia (MEX)
4. Alejandro Montiel (MEX)
5. Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)
6. Hiroshi Nakano (JAP)
7. Damaen Kelly (GB)
8. Lorenzo Parra (VEN)
9. Masaki Nakamuna (JAP)
10. Jose Carita Lopez (PR)
11. Hussein Hussein (AUSTRL)
12. Martin Castillo (MEX)

LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS

Champ: Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)
1. Pichit C. Siriwat (THAI)
2. Hidenobu Honda (JAP)
3. Yura Dima (MON)
4. Bebis Mendoza (COL)
5. Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)
6. Deeden Kengkarun (THAI)
7. Eric Ortiz (MEX)
8. Masibulele Makepula (SA)
9. Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)
10. Edgar Velasquez (VEN)
11. Shingo Yamaguchi (JAP)
12. Tatsuo Kayashida (JAP)

MINIMUMWEIGHTS

Champ: Vacant
1. Noel Arambulet (VEN)
2. Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)
3. Joma Gamboa (PHIL)
4. Chana Porpaoin (THAI)
5. Jose Garcia (COL)
6. Kim Ki Hwan (KOR)
7. Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)
8. Hiroshi Nakajima (JAP)
9. Daniel Reyes (COL)
10. Khulile Makeba (SA)
11. Alex Sanchez (PR)
12. Jairo Arango (PAN)

WBC RATINGS

(Ratings as of February 2002)

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Champ: Lennox Lewis (GB)
1. Mike Tyson (USA)
2. Vitali Klitschko (UKR)
3. Hasim Rahman (USA)
4. Fres Oquendo (USA)
5. Oliver McCall (USA)
6. Kirk Johnson (CAN)
7. Chris Byrd (USA)
8. Vaughn Bean (USA)
9. Larry Donald (USA)
10. Michael Moorer (USA)
11. Clifford Etienne (USA)
12. Jameel McCline (USA)
13. Lance Whitaker (USA)
14. David Tua (NZ)
15. Danny Williams (GB)
16. Ray Mercer (USA)
17. Monte Barrett (USA)
18. Brian Nielsen (DEN)
19. Luan Krasniqi (GER)
20. Henry Akinwande (GB)
21. Francois Botha (SA)
22. Lamon Brewster (USA)
23. Obed Sullivan (USA)
24. Faruq Saleem (USA)
25. Shannon Briggs (USA)
26. Timo Hoffman (GER)
27. Nicolay Valouev (RUS)
28. Joe Mesi (USA)
29. Peter Okhello (UGA)
30. Matthew Ellis (GB)

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Champ: Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)
1. Wayne Braithwaite (GUY)
2. Vincenzo Cantatore (ITA)
3. O'Neil Bell (USA)
4. Alexander Gurov (UKR)
5. Carlos Cruzat (CHI)
6. Louis Azille (DR)
7. Dale Brown (CAN)
8. Sebastiaan Rothmann (SA)
9. Bruce Scott (GB)
10. Arthur Williams (USA)
11. Turan Bagci (TUR)
12. Ramon Garbey (USA)
13. Ezra Sellers (USA)
14. Carl Thompson (GB)
15. Rudiger May (GER)
16. Jason Robinson (USA)
17. Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)
18. Jean-Marc Mormeck (FRA)
19. Adolpho Washington (USA)
20. Pietro Aurino (ITA)
21. Luis Andres Pineda (PAN)
22. Alain Simon (FRA)
23. Roman Kovalchuk (UKR)
24. Mohamed Ben Guesmia (ALG)
25. William Guthrie (USA)
26. Frederic Serrat (FRA)
27. Daniel Rowsell (AUSTRL)
28. Sione Asipeli (TON)
29. Kenny Keene (USA)
30. Krzysztof Wlodarczyk (POL)

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS

Champ: Roy Jones (USA)
1. Clinton Woods (GB)
2. Yawe Davis (ITA)
3. Antonio Tarver (USA)
4. Mads Larsen (DEN)
5. Eric Harding (USA)
6. Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)
7. Julio Gonzalez (USA)
8. Michael Nunn (USA)
9. Reggie Johnson (USA)
10. Lou Del Valle (USA)
11. Montell Griffin (USA)
12. Glencoffe Johnson (USA)
13. Derrick Harmon (USA)
14. Thomas Hansvoll (NOR)
15. Darren Corbett (GB)
16. David Telesco (USA)
17. Thomas Ulrich (GER)
18. Jabrial Jabrialov (RUS)
19. Lincoln Carter (USA)
20. Kamel Amrane (FRA)
21. Chris Johnson (CAN)
22. Mario Tonus (ITA)
23. Sergio Baez (ARG)
24. Silvio Branco (ITA)
25. Juan Nelongo (SPA)
26. Stipe Drews (CRO)
27. Tomasz Adamek (POL)
28. Arturo Rivera (MEX)
29. Sean Fitzgerald (USA)
30. Orlando Rivera (PR)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Champ: Eric Lucas (CAN)
1. Markus Beyer (GER)
2. David Starie (GB)
3. Thomas Tate (USA)
4. Danilo Haussler (GER)
5. Glenn Catley (GB)
6. Dingaan Thobela (SA)
7. Mikkel Kessler (DEN)
8. Antwun Echols (USA)
9. Omar Sheika (USA)
10. Jurgen Brahmer (GER)
11. Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)
12. Henry Porras (CR)
13. Charles Brewer (USA)
14. Mehdi Sanoune (FRA)
15. Syd Vanderpool (CAN)
16. Yoshinori Nishizawa (JAP)
17. Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)
18. Vinny Pazienza (USA)
19. Dan Batchelder (USA)
20. Robin Reid (GB)
21. David Reid (USA)
22. Omar Gonzalez (ARG)
23. Rudy Markussen (DEN)
24. Brian Magee (GB)
25. Rick Thornberry (AUSTRL)
26. Mario Veit (GER)
27. James Lubwana (UGA)
28. Sidney Msutu (SA)
29. Jeff Lacy (USA)
30. Antoine Robinson (USA)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Champ: Bernard Hopkins (USA)
1. Erland Betare (FRA)
2. Felix Trinidad (PR)
3. Cristian Sanavia (ITA)
4. Tito Mendoza (PAN)
5. Keith Holmes (USA)
6. Carl Daniels (USA)
7. Naotaka Hozumi (JAP)
8. Antonio Perugino (ITA)
9. Jerry Elliott (NIG)
10. Raymond Joval (HOL)
11. Travis Simms (USA)
12. Morrade Hakkar (FRA)
13. Kevin Palmer (USA)
14. Robert Allen (USA)
15. Evans Ashira (KEN)
16. Aaron Davis (USA)
17. Kuvanych Toygonbayev (UZB)
18. Aaron Mitchell (USA)
19. Raul Marquez (USA)
20. Jose Clavero (ARG)
21. Alejandro Berrio (COL)
22. Marlon Hayes (USA)
23. Dwain Williams (USA)
24. Lansana Djallo (BEL)
25. Hector Velazco (ARG)
26. Jorge Sendra (SPA)
27. Ryan Rhodes (GB)
28. Andres Galfi (HUN)
29. Stephan Trabant (GER)
30. Tokunbo Olajide (CAN)

SUPER WELTERWEIGHTS

Champ: Oscar De La Hoya (USA)
1. Roman Karmazin (RUS)
2. Francisco Castillejo (SPA)
3. Fitz Vanderpool (CAN)
4. Bronco McKart (USA)
5. Yory Boy Campas (MEX)
6. Kirino Garcia (MEX)
7. Nader Hamdan (AUSTRL)
8. Akira Ohigashi (JAP)
9. Mamadou Thiam (FRA)
10. Wayne Alexander (GB)
11. Alex Bunema (USA)
12. Angel Hernandez (MEX)
13. J.C. Candelo (COL)
14. Richard Williams (GB)
15. Steve Roberts (GB)
16. Kassim Ouma (USA)
17. Christophe Canclaux (FRA)
18. Frank Olsen (DEN)
19. Alfred Ankamah (GHA)
20. Santiago Samaniego (PAN)
21. Michael Rask (DEN)
22. Sergei Dzindziruk (UKR)
23. Paolo Pizzamiglio (ITA)
24. Adrian Stone (GB)
25. Jason Papillion (USA)
26. Elvis Guerrero (PAN)
27. Wilfredo Rivera (PR)
28. Rhoshii Wells (USA)
29. Anthony Farnell (GB)
30. Mihaly Kotai (HUN)

WELTERWEIGHTS

Champ: Vernon Forrest (USA)
1. Shane Mosley (USA)
2. Jose Luis Cruz (MEX)
3. Carlos Baldomir (ARG)
4. Thomas Damgaard (DEN)
5. Michele Piccirillo (ITA)
6. Hercules Kyvelos (CAN)
7. Danny Perez (USA)
8. Julian Holland (AUSTRL)
9. Cory Spinks (USA)
10. Christian Bladt (DEN)
11. Maxim Nesterenko (RUS)
12. Manuel Gomez (MEX)
13. Rev Santillan (PHIL)
14. Alessandro Duran (ITA)
15. Alexander Vetoux (UKR)
16. Michel Trabant (GER)
17. Antonio Diaz (MEX)
18. Hassan Al (DEN)
19. Chantel Stanciel (USA)
20. Michele Orlando (ITA)
21. Oba Carr (USA)
22. Sergio Martinez (ARG)
23. Frederic Klose (FRA)
24. Rafael Pineda (COL)
25. Golden Johnson (USA)
26. Jose Rivera (USA)
27. Neil Sinclair (GB)
28. Miguel Rodriguez (MEX)
29. Jawaid Khaliq (GB)
30. Hiroyuki Maeda (JAP)

SUPER LIGHTWEIGHTS

Champ: Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)
1. Gianluca Branco (ITA)
2. Hector Camacho Jr. (PR)
3. Arturo Gatti (CAN)
4. Mikhail Krivolapov (RUS)
5. Eamonn Magee (GB)
6. Ben Tackie (GHA)
7. James Leija (USA)
8. Oktay Urkal (TUR)
9. Gabriel Mapuoka (FRA)
10. Ricky Hatton (GB)
11. Wilfredo Vilches (ARG)
12. Masakazu Satake (JAP)
13. Sharmba Mitchell (USA)
14. Terronn Millett (USA)
15. Francisco Bojado (MEX)
16. Miguel Cotto (PR)
17. Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)
18. Ray Oliveira (USA)
19. Diobelys Hurtado (CUB)
20. Soulemane M'Baye (FRA)
21. Vivian Harris (USA)
22. Omar Weis (ARG)
23. Junior Witter (GB)
24. Khalid Rahilou (FRA)

25. Teddy Reid (JAM)
26. Giuseppe Lauri (ITA)
27. Pablo Sarmiento (ARG)
28. Juan Mosquera (PAN)
29. Terrance Cauthen (USA)
30. Vince Phillips (USA)

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Champ: Jose Luis Castillo (MEX)
1. Juan Lazcano (USA)
2. Steve Johnston (USA)
3. Stefano Zoff (ITA)
4. Alex Trujillo (PR)
5. Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)
6. Julio Diaz (USA)
7. Carlos Gerena (PR)
8. Julien Lorcy (FRA)
9. Victoriano Damian Sosa (DR)
10. Raul Balbi (ARG)
11. Colin Dunne (GB)
12. Lovemore Ndou (SA)
13. Diego Jimenez (ARG)
14. Sandro Casamonica (ITA)
15. Michael Clark (USA)
16. Bobby Vanzie (GB)
17. Dennis Laurente (PHIL)
18. Miguel Callist (PAN)
19. Julius Wheeler (USA)
20. Efren Hinojosa (MEX)
21. Aldo Rios (ARG)
22. Dennis Holbaek (DEN)
23. Cesar Bazan (MEX)
24. Omar Bernal (MEX)
25. Michele Delli Paoli (ITA)
26. Steve Murray (GB)
27. Justo Sencion (USA)
28. Brian Adams (USA)
29. Sayan Sanchat (RUS)
30. Wilmer Gomez (PAN)

SUPER FEATHERWEIGHTS

Champ: Floyd Mayweather (USA)
1. Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)
2. Kengo Nagashima (JAP)
3. Jesus Chavez (USA)
4. Tiger Ari (PHIL)
5. Randy Suico (PHIL)
6. Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)
7. Lakva Sim (MON)
8. Joel Casamayor (CUB)
9. Philip Ndou (SA)
10. Affif Djelti (FRA)
11. Carlos Hernandez (EL SALV)
12. Boris Sinitsin (RUS)
13. Tontcho Tontchev (BUL)
14. Ernesto Zepeda (MEX)
15. Michael Gomez (GB)
16. Lamont Pearson (USA)
17. Fernando Trejo (MEX)
18. Pedro Miranda (SPA)
19. Mzonke Fana (SA)
18. Silvio Usini (ITA)
19. Claudio Martinet (ARG)
20. Alex Arthur (GB)
21. Javier Alvarez (ARG)
22. Silvano Usini (ITA)
23. Claudio Martinet (ARG)
24. Yodsanan Nanthachai (THAI)
25. Miguel Casillas (MEX)
26. Daniel Attah (NIG)
27. Javier Jauregui (MEX)
28. Hogu Min (KOR)
29. David Santos (USA)
30. Genaro Trazeneos (MEX)

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Champ: Erik Morales (MEX)
1. Injin Chi (KOR)
2. Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)
3. Michael Brodie (GB)
4. Naseem Hamed (GB)
5. Manuel Calvo (SPA)
6. Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)
7. Anthony Tshehla (SA)
8. Scott Harrison (GB)
9. Takashi Koshimoto (JAP)
10. Guty Espadas (MEX)
11. Luis Fuentes (MEX)
12. Istvan Kovacs (HUN)
13. Junior Jones (USA)
14. Panther Yanagida (JAP)
15. William Abelyan (USA)
16. John Michael Johnson (USA)
17. Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)
18. Fernando Velardez (MEX)
19. Frankie Toledo (USA)
20. Daniel Seda (PR)
21. Orlando Soto (PAN)
22. Augie Sanchez (USA)
23. Joan Guzman (DR)
24. Pastor Maurin (ARG)
25. Wilson Alcorro (COL)
26. Zahir Raheem (USA)
27. Cyril Thomas (FRA)
28. Baby Lorona (PHIL)
29. Eiichi Sugama (JAP)
30. Santiago Rojas (SPA)

SUPER BANTAMWEIGHTS

Champ: Willie Jorrin (USA)
1. Israel Vazquez (MEX)
2. Oscar Larios (MEX)
3. Osamu Sato (JAP)
4. Johnny Tapia (USA)
5. Salim Medjkoune (FRA)
6. Kiattisak Chocchoi (THAI)
7. Nadel Hussein (AUSTRL)
8. Youngjin Cho (KOR)
9. Arnel Barotillo (AUSTRL)
10. Marcos Licona (USA)
11. Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)
12. Wayne McCullough (IRE)
13. Kozo Ishii (JAP)
14. Junichi Watanabe (JAP)
15. Akihiro Kanai (JAP)
16. Manabu Fukushima (JAP)
17. Fabian Oliva (ARG)
18. Norihisa Tomimoto (JAP)
19. Emmanuel Lucero (USA)
20. Celestino Caballero (PAN)
21. Wethya Singwangcha (THAI)
22. Turcay Kaya (FRA)
23. Angel Chacon (PR)
24. Mahyar Monshipour (FRA)
25. Jose Luis Valbuena (VEN)
26. Juan Jose Herrera (ARG)
27. Masakazu Sugawara (JAP)
28. Tetsutora Senrima (JAP)
29. Jorge Solis (MEX)
30. Brian Carr (GB)

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Champ: Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)
1. Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)
2. Genaro Garcia (USA)
3. Johnny Bredahl (DEN)
4. Rafael Marquez (MEX)
5. Diego Morales (MEX)
6. Jess Maca (PHIL)
7. Noel Wilders (GB)
8. Mark Johnson (USA)
9. Abner Cordero (PHIL)
10. Cruz Carbajal (MEX)
11. Julio Zarate (MEX)
12. Spend Abazi (DEN)
13. Jhonny Gonzalez (MEX)
14. Nobuaki Naka (JAP)
15. David Guerault (FRA)
16. Fabien Guillerme (FRA)
17. Heriberto Ruiz (MEX)
18. Francisco Mateos (MEX)
19. Lester Fuentes (EL SALV)
20. Nicky Booth (GB)
21. Debind Thapa (NEP)
22. Pete Frissina (USA)
23. Ricardo Barajas (MEX)
24. Roger Gonzalez (USA)
25. Alexandre Yagupov (FRA)
26. Fasan 3K-Battery (THAI)
27. Julio Cesar Medina (ARG)
28. Frankie DeMilo (SWE)
29. Hyok Jun Kim (KOR)
30. Dejdamrong Muangsurin (THAI)

SUPER FLYWEIGHTS

Champ: Masanori Tokuyama (JAP)
1. Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)
2. Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)
3. Martin Castillo (MEX)
4. Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)
5. Kazuhiro Ryuko (JAP)
6. Malcolm Tunacao (PHIL)
7. Luis Bolanos (COL)
8. Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)
9. Shingo Sasaki (JAP)
10. Jose Beranza (MEX)
11. Katsushige Kawashima (JAP)
12. Erick Lopez (MEX)
13. Medgoen Singsurat (THAI)
14. Eiji Kojima (JAP)
15. Mauricio Pastrana (COL)
16. Takuya Kiya (JAP)
17. Oscar Andrade (MEX)
18. Luis Perez (NIC)
19. Sot Tor Veeraphol (THAI)
20. Alexander Knight (RUS)
21. Joel Avila (PHIL)
22. Julio Coronel (COL)
23. Eric Barcelona (PHIL)
24. Ricardo Cordoba (PAN)
25. Tomas Rojas (MEX)
26. Vernie Torres (USA)
27. Trinidad Mendoza (MEX)
28. Mbwana Matumla (TAN)
29. Hiroaki Murakoshi (JAP)
30. Gonseng Duksoo (KOR)

FLYWEIGHTS

Champ: Pongsaklek Wonjongkam (THAI)
1. Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)
2. Hidenobu Honda (JAP)
3. Hiroshi Nakano (JAP)
4. Wandee Chor Chareon (THAI)
5. Randy Mangubat (PHIL)
6. Hussein Hussein (AUSTRL)
7. Masaki Nakamura (JAP)
8. Hawk Makepula (SA)
9. Takefumi Sakata (JAP)
10. Everardo Morales (MEX)
11. Alejandro Montiel (MEX)
12. Hayato Asai (JAP)
13. Peter Culshaw (GB)
14. Damaen Kelly (GB)
15. Daisuke Naito (JAP)
16. Luis Maldonado (MEX)
17. Jair Jimenez (COL)
18. Lorenzo Parra (VEN)
19. Omar Narvaez (ARG)
20. Evaristo Primero (MEX)
21. Ivan Hernandez (MEX)
22. Gilberto Keb-Baas (MEX)
23. Koji Koyama (JAP)
24. Carlos Bouchan (MEX)
25. Mimoun Chent (FRA)
26. Andrea Sarritzu (ITA)
27. Alejandro Moreno (MEX)
28. Jason Booth (GB)
29. Choe Pyong Guk (KOR)
30. Gabula Vabaza (SA)

LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS

Champ: Yosam Choi (KOR)
1. Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)
2. Juanito Rubillar (PHIL)
3. Jesus Martinez (MEX)
4. Agustin Luna (MEX)
5. Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)
6. Bebis Mendoza (COL)
7. Eric Ortiz (MEX)
8. Vuyisile Bebe (SA)
9. Surachai Saengmorokot (THAI)
10. Tatsuo Hayashida (JAP)
11. Jake Matlala (SA)
12. John Molina (COL)
13. Shingo Yamaguchi (JAP)
14. Pilkoo Kang (KOR)
15. Victor Burgos (MEX)
16. Keisuke Yokoyama (JAP)
17. Celso Danggud (PHIL)
18. Rolly Lunas (PHIL)
19. Rodrigo Garcia (MEX)
20. Noboyuki Enomoto (JAP)
21. Takayuki Korogi (JAP)
22. Jinho Kim (KOR)
23. Flash Villacura (PHIL)
24. Liborio Romero (MEX)
25. Ernesto Castro (NIC)
26. Manuel Vargas (MEX)
27. Omar Nino (MEX)
28. Minsoo Jang (KOR)
29. Steve Msimango (SA)
30. Deende Kengkarun (THAI)

STRAWWEIGHTS

Champ: Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)
1. Khulile Makeba (SA)
2. Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)
3. Isaac Bustos (MEX)
4. Hiroshi Nakajima (JAP)
5. Noel Tunacao (PHIL)
6. Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)
7. Heriberto Gijon (PHIL)
8. Noel Arambulet (VEN)
9. Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)
10. Chana Porpaoin (THAI)
11. Makoto Suzuki (JAP)
12. Satoshi Kogumasaka (JAP)
13. Juan Palacios (NIC)
14. Rodel Mayol (PHIL)
15. Sizwe Sinyabi (SA)
16. Jairo Arango (PAN)
17. Valentin Leon (MEX)
18. Hiroyuki Abe (JAP)
19. Manny Melchor (PHIL)
20. Fernando Luna (MEX)
21. Omar Soto (MEX)
22. Wele Maqolo (SA)
23. Jaewon Kim (KOR)
24. Juan Centeno (NIC)
25. Miguel Barrera (MEX)
26. Daisuke Iida (JAP)
27. Sarikalek O. Eakaria (THAI)
28. Lorenzo Trejo (MEX)
29. Mawanda Sineko (SA)
30. Eagle Okuda (JAP)

IBF RATINGS

(Ratings as of February 2002)

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Champ: Lennox Lewis (GB)
1. Chris Byrd (USA)
2. Vacant
3. Fres Oquendo (USA)
4. Hasim Rahman (USA)
5. Kirk Johnson (CAN)
6. Jameel McCline (USA)
7. Monte Barrett (USA)
8. Ray Mercer (USA)
9. David Tua (NZ)
10. Oliver McCall (USA)
11. Lance Whitaker (USA)
12. Clifford Etienne (USA)

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Champ: Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. O'Neil Bell (USA)
4. Alexander Gurov (UKR)
5. James Toney (USA)
6. Wayne Braithwaite (GUY)
7. Arthur Williams (USA)
8. Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)
9. Ezra Sellers (USA)
10. Jorge Castro (ARG)
11. Imamu Mayfield (USA)
12. Louis Azille (DR)

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS

Champ: Roy Jones (USA)
1. Antonio Tarver (USA)
2. Vacant
3. Eric Harding (USA)
4. David Telesco (USA)
5. Glencoffe Johnson (USA)
6. Clinton Woods (GB)
7. Reggie Johnson (USA)
8. Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)
9. Bruno Girard (FRA)
10. Lou Del Valle (USA)
11. Julio Gonzalez (USA)
12. Lester Jacobs (ENG)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Champ: Sven Ottke (GER)
1. Thomas Tate (USA)
2. Vacant
3. Antwun Echols (USA)
4. Omar Sheika (USA)
5. David Starie (GB)
6. Markus Beyer (GER)
7. Mads Larsen (DEN)
8. Danilo Haussler (GER)
9. Sam Hill (USA)
10. Richard Grant (USA)
11. Fernando Zuniga (USA)
12. Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Champ: Bernard Hopkins (USA)
1. Vacant
2. Felix Trinidad (PR)
3. Tito Mendoza (PAN)
4. Erland Betare (FRA)
5. Carl Daniels (USA)
6. Keith Holmes (USA)
7. Raymond Joval (HOL)
8. Robert Allen (USA)
9. Cristian Sanavia (ITA)
10. Francisco Castillejo (SPA)
11. Harry Simon (NAM)
12. Howard Eastman (GB)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Champ: Winky Wright (USA)
1. Bronco McKart (USA)
2. Vacant
3. Nader Hamdan (AUSTRL)
4. Angel Hernandez (USA)
5. Kirino Garcia (MEX)
6. Alex Bunema (USA)
7. Roman Karmazin (RUS)
8. J.C. Candelo (COL)
9. Mamadou Thiam (FRA)
10. Jason Papillion (USA)
11. Emil Baku (USA)
12. Michael Rask (DEN)

WELTERWEIGHTS

Champ: Vacant
1. Michele Piccirillo (ITA)
2. Cory Spinks (USA)
3. Antonio Diaz (MEX)
4. Thomas Damgaard (DEN)
5. Rafael Pineda (COL)
6. Hercules Kyvelos (CAN)
7. Jose Rivera (USA)
8. Danny Perez (USA)
9. Oba Carr (USA)
10. Santiago Samaniego (PAN)
11. Julian Holland (AUSTRL)
12. Antonio Margarito (USA)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS

Champ: Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)
1. Ben Tackie (GHA)
2. Vacant
3. Arturo Gatti (USA)
4. Carlos Vilches (ARG)
5. Oktay Urkal (TUR)
6. James Leija (USA)
7. Micky Ward (USA)
8. Teddy Reid (JAM)
9. Ray Oliveira (USA)
10. Sharmba Mitchell (USA)
11. Terronn Millett (USA)
12. Hector Camacho Jr. (USA)

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Champ: Paul Spadafora (USA)
1. Angel Manfredy (USA)
2. Vacant
3. Juan Lazcano (USA)
4. Victoriano Sosa (DR)
5. Julio Diaz (USA)
6. Edson Xuxa Nascimento (BRA)
7. Steve Johnston (USA)
8. Dennis Holbaek (DEN)
9. Stefano Zoff (ITA)
10. Julian Wheeler (USA)
11. Michael Clark (USA)
12. Efren Hinojosa (USA)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS

Champ: Steve Forbes (USA)
1. Lamont Pearson (USA)
2. Vacant
3. David Santos (USA)
4. Ernesto Zepeda (MEX)
5. Luis Lizarraga (USA)
6. Philip Ndou (SA)
7. Carlos Hernandez (USA)
8. Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)
9. Jesus Chavez (USA)
10. Juan Arias (USA)
11. Daniel Attah (NIG)
12. John Brown (USA)

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Champ: Manuel Medina (MEX)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)
4. Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)
5. Frankie Toledo (USA)
6. Oscar Larios (MEX)
7. John Michael Johnson (USA)
8. Victor Polo (COL)
9. Johnny Tapia (USA)
10. Michael Brodie (GB)
11. David Toledo (USA)
12. Augie Sanchez (USA)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS

Champ: Manny Pacquaio (PHIL)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Jose Luis Valbuena (ARG)
4. F. Rakkiatgym (INDO)
5. Salim Medjkoune (FRA)
6. Enrique Sanchez (MEX)
7. Fernando Velardez (USA)
8. Bones Adams (USA)
9. Vladyslav Antonov (RUS)
10. Arnel Barotillo (AUSTRL)
11. Nadel Hussein (AUSTRL)
12. Wayne McCullough (IRE)

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Champ: Tim Austin (USA)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Rafael Marquez (MEX)
4. Mark Johnson (USA)
5. Pete Frissina (USA)
6. Johnny Bredahl (DEN)
7. Diego Morales (MEX)
8. Adan Vargas (MEX)
9. Genaro Garcia (MEX)
10. Ratanachai Vorapin (THAI)
11. Roger Gonzalez (USA)
12. Spend Abazi (DEN)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS

Champ: Felix Machado (VEN)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Martin Castillo (MEX)
4. Saen Sor Ploenchit (THAI)
5. Mauricio Pastrana (COL)
6. Adonis Rivas (NIC)
7. Luis Bolano (COL)
8. Samson 3K-Battery (THAI)
9. Ricardo Vargas (USA)
10. Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)
11. Jesus Rojas (VEN)
12. Julio Coronel (COL)

FLYWEIGHTS

Champ: Irene Pacheco (COL)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)
4. Alejandro Montiel (MEX)
5. Hussein Hussein (LEB)
6. David Guerault (FRA)
7. Damaen Kelly (GB)
8. Mike Trejo (USA)
9. Wandee Chareon (THAI)
10. Randy Mangubat (PHIL)
11. Angel Priolo (COL)
12. Jason Booth (GB)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS

Champ: Ricardo Lopez (MEX)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)
4. Jose Burgos (MEX)
5. Noel Tunacao (PHIL)
6. Bebis Mendoza (COL)
7. Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)
8. Jorge Arce (MEX)
9. Juan Keb Baas (MEX)
10. Fahlan Sakreerin (THAI)
11. Eric Ortiz (MEX)
12. Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)

MINI FLYWEIGHTS

Champ: Roberto Leyva (MEX)
1. Vacant
2. Miguel Barrera (MEX)
3. Daniel Reyes (COL)
4. Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)
5. Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)
6. Noel Arambulet (VEN)
7. Hiroshi Nakajima (JAP)
8. Joma Gamboa (PHIL)
9. Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)
10. Eriberto Gejon (PHIL)
11. Isaac Bustos (MEX)
12. Roy Doliguez (KOR)

CLASSIC

From THE RING, June 1991

TERRY NORRIS WHIPS SUGAR RAY LEONARD

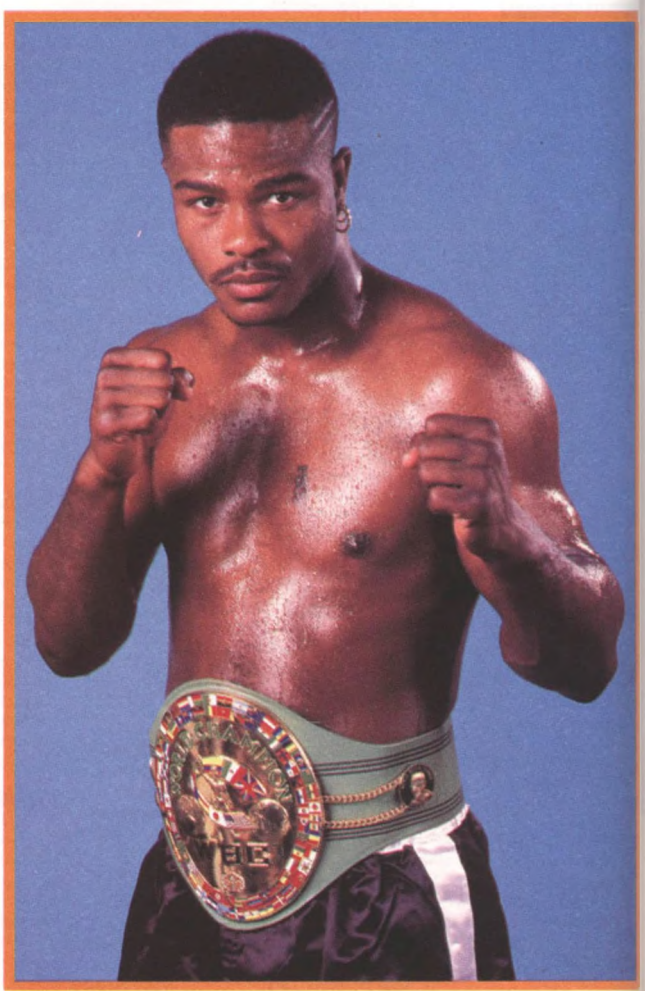
An Inglorious Ending To A Glorious Career

By Jeff Ryan

In the end, Sugar Ray Leonard should have surveyed the empty seats and the Showtime cameras; gazed way up beyond the Knicks' championship banners toward heaven, and thanked the man in the sky-box upstairs that it *did* end like this. In a Madison Square Garden two-thirds empty and on a cable network with one-tenth the penetration of ABC, precious few got to see the saddest of boxing endings, one where a man whose two fists once worked like a chainsaw and a magic wand suddenly looked even more pathetic throwing punches than catching them.

Leonard lunged badly, firing amateurish haymakers he never threw even as an amateur. So desperate was he to find something that worked, he resorted to copying *Vinny Pazienza* by grabbing the top rope with his right hand and propelling himself forward to fire a left. But no matter what he did, Leonard couldn't cut off the ring on the shuffling Father Time, let alone the fleet-footed Terry Norris. The punches launched at Time couldn't graze the old man's beard. The ones aimed at Norris missed by a generation.

Sad as it was, when the tag team of Time and Norris had earned a unanimous decision by the embarrassing scores of 120-104 (no rounds for Leonard), 119-103 (one round for Leonard), and 116-110, there was no cloud-



Terry Norris ended any hopes that Sugar Ray Leonard would resurrect his career once more. The WBC super welterweight titlist pummeled the ring legend in earning a unanimous decision victory.

As early as the second round, the outcome was certain, as Norris hit Leonard with ease. The whole experience was humbling for the 34-year-old Leonard, who once packed arenas. This time, only 7,495 were in attendance at Madison Square Garden to watch the one-sided affair.

burst of tears from the Garden's cheap seats. No, just a rush of air filling the building. Maybe it was the breeze heralding the arrival of Terry Norris' spring of promise and signaling the end of Ray Leonard's winter of discontent. Or, perhaps, it was just everyone's sigh of relief.

"Sure, I'm disappointed," Leonard's manager, Mike Trainer, said in the Garden's mezzanine afterward. "But if it was gonna end, this is the way I wanted it to end. This is the only way it was gonna stop. I thank God it stopped, and that he didn't get hurt. He finished on his feet."

The fans, though, didn't. The 7,495 of them in the Garden, and, presumably, the others watching in the two million homes tuned to Showtime and that network's pay-per-view system, stayed in their seats. As early as the second round, the outcome was that certain. And for the 34-year-old Leonard, the scenery had to be as humbling as the script Norris was writing. Leonard had, after all, drawn more people for his 1982 retirement announcement, played to a bigger TV audience as an amateur, and gotten a larger hand at the Garden while wearing an HBO blazer.

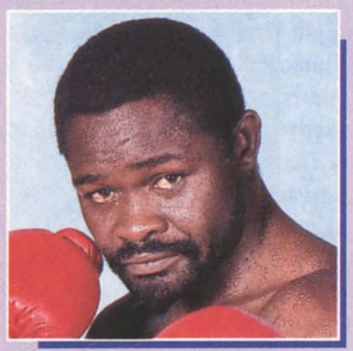
Before every one of his six fights following eye surgery in '82, Leonard bristled at the suggestion that he could be blinded by his opponent. In the end, however, he had blinded himself. His thrashing on this night had been preordained by his refusal to see the obvious signs of deterioration over the past three years.

Against Norris, Leonard didn't lose it overnight. No, he lost it during the 19 anticlimactic months between his startling upset of Marvin Hagler in '87 and his sloppy return against Don Lalonde in 1988. Leonard called it an off-night when he had to climb off the floor and salvage a disputed draw with Thomas Hearns in '89. He thought he boxed masterfully when he went 12 tedious rounds with a cardboard cutout of Roberto Duran that same year. Always, he discounted the sports pages by telling himself not to believe everything he read. He should have been listening.

But in defeat, at least there was deliverance. The world finally got Sugar

Leonard didn't lose his skills overnight against Norris. Sugar Ray's skills began deteriorating over 19 anticlimactic months between his dramatic upset of Marvin Hagler in 1987 (top) and his sloppy return against Donny Lalonde in '88 (above).

THE RING RATINGS, June 1991



Azumah Nelson

HEAVYWEIGHTS
1. **Evander Holyfield,** Atlanta, GA
2. **Mike Tyson,** Catskill, NY
3. **Razor Ruddock,** Canada
4. **Buster Douglas,** Columbus, OH
5. **Tim Witherspoon,** Philadelphia, PA
6. **Carl Williams,** White Plains, NY
7. **Riddick Bowe,** Brooklyn, NY
8. **Ray Mercer,** Union, NJ
9. **George Foreman,** Humble, TX
10. **Francesco Damiani,** Italy

CRUISERWEIGHTS
1. **Jeff Lampkin,** Youngstown, OH
2. **Robert Daniels,** Miami, FL
3. **Taoufik Belbouli,** France
4. **Massimiliano Duran,** Italy
5. **Anaclet Wamba,** France
6. **Johnny Nelson,** England
7. **James Warring,** Miami, FL
8. **Nate Miller,** Philadelphia, PA
9. **Carlos DeLeon,** Puerto Rico
10. **Richard Mason,** Cincinnati, OH

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
1. **Virgil Hill,** Las Vegas, NV
2. **Prince Charles Williams,** Manfield, OH
3. **Michael Moorer,** Detroit, MI
4. **Thomas Hearns,** Las Vegas, NV
5. **Dennis Andries,** Detroit, MI
6. **Jeff Harding,** Australia
7. **Robert T. Word,** Ypsilanti, MI
8. **Graciano Rocchigiani,** Germany
9. **Frank Tate,** Houston, TX
10. **Frank Winterstein,** France

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
1. **Christophe Tiozzo,** France
2. **Lindell Holmes,** Detroit, MI
3. **Tony Byrd,** Los Angeles, CA
4. **Mauro Galvano,** Italy
5. **Victor Cordova,** Panama
6. **Tony Thornton,** Glassboro, NJ
7. **John Jarvis,** Richmond, VA
8. **Roberto Duran,** Miami, FL
9. **Juan Carlos Gimenez,** Paraguay
10. **Dario Matteoni,** Argentina

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
1. **Michael Nunn,** Los Angeles, CA
2. **Julian Jackson,** Virgin Islands
3. **Sumbu Kalambay,** Italy
4. **Mike McCallum,** Brooklyn, NY
5. **Steve Collins,** Brockton, MA
6. **Chris Eubank,** England
7. **James Toney,** Ann Arbor, MI
8. **Michael Watson,** England
9. **Nigel Benn,** England
10. **Reggie Johnson,** Houston, TX

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
1. **Terry Norris,** Mission Valley, CA
2. **Gianfranco Rosi,** Italy
3. **John David Jackson,** Tucson, AZ
4. **Julio Cesar Vasquez,** Argentina
5. **Gilbert Dele,** France
6. **Jorge Castro,** Argentina
7. **Carlos Elliott,** Japan
8. **Tyrone Trice,** Milwaukee, WI
9. **Glenn Wolfe,** Miami, FL
10. **Yung Kil Chung,** South Korea

WELTERWEIGHTS
1. **Meldrick Taylor,** Cheltenham, PA
2. **Simon Brown,** Germantown, MD
3. **Maurice Blocker,** Germantown, MD
4. **Buddy McGirt,** Brentwood, NY
5. **Aaron Davis,** Bronx, NY
6. **Mark Breland,** New York, NY
7. **Glenwood Brown,** Plainfield, NJ
8. **Lonnie Smith,** Denver, CO
9. **Genaro Leon,** Mexico
10. **Crisanto Espana,** Northern Ireland

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
1. **Julio Cesar Chavez,** Mexico
2. **Loreto Garza,** Sacramento, CA
3. **Roger Mayweather,** Las Vegas, NV
4. **Hector Camacho,** Big Cypress, FL
5. **Juan Coggi,** Argentina
6. **Charles Murray,** Essex County, NJ
7. **Pat Barrett,** England
8. **Terrence Alli,** New York, NY
9. **John Duplessis,** New Orleans, LA
10. **Angel Hernandez,** Puerto Rico

LIGHTWEIGHTS
1. **Pernell Whitaker,** Norfolk, VA
2. **Tracy Spann,** Plainfield, NJ
3. **Freddie Pendleton,** Miami, FL
4. **Juan Nazario,** Puerto Rico
5. **Poli Diaz,** Spain
6. **Anthony Jones,** Detroit, MI
7. **Greg Haugen,** Henderson, NV
8. **Pedro Sanchez,** New York, NY
9. **Darryl Tyson,** Washington, D.C.
10. **Sharmba Mitchell,** Takoma Park, MD

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
1. **Azumah Nelson,** Ghana
2. **Tony Lopez,** Sacramento, CA
3. **Brian Mitchell,** South Africa
4. **Jeff Fenech,** Australia
5. **John-John Molina,** Puerto Rico
6. **Genaro Hernandez,** Los Angeles, CA
7. **Joey Gamache,** Lewiston, ME
8. **Bernard Taylor,** Knoxville, TN
9. **Jerry Ngobeni,** South Africa
10. **Frankie Mitchell,** Philadelphia, PA

FEATHERWEIGHTS
1. **Antonio Esparragoza,** Venezuela
2. **Jorge Paez,** Mexico
3. **Marcos Villasana,** Mexico
4. **Louie Espinoza,** Phoenix, AZ
5. **Troy Dorsey,** Dallas, TX
6. **Maurizio Stecca,** Italy
7. **Ricardo Cepeda,** Bronx, NY
8. **Eloy Rojas,** Venezuela
9. **Rafael Zuniga,** Colombia
10. **Tom Johnson,** Detroit, MI

Ray's message. In tumbling to Norris, Leonard forever buried the nagging questions, the assumptions of a public that couldn't understand why someone surrounded by so much gold and green (his career ring earnings are in the exclusive neighborhood of $110-million) kept venturing to the other side of the tracks and into the world of black and blue.

No, he wasn't doing it for the money. Compared to the $27.4-million he earned for his last two fights, the $4-million purse for the Norris bout amounted to charity work. No, he didn't need to hear the cheers of the crowd again. The Garden wasn't half as noisy on fight night as it is when one of the Rangers' tough guys skates to the penalty box after throwing his own bolo punches. And, no, he wasn't doing it

UNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
. Jesse Benavides, Corpus Christi, TX
. Welcome Ncita, South Africa
. Kiyoshi Hatanaka, Japan
. Pedro Decima, Argentina
. Luis Mendoza, Los Angeles, CA
. Paul Banke, Quail Valley, CA
. Jesus Salud, San Diego, CA
. Tracy Patterson, New Paltz, NY
. Jemal Hinton, District Heights, MD
. Yong Hoon Lee, South Korea

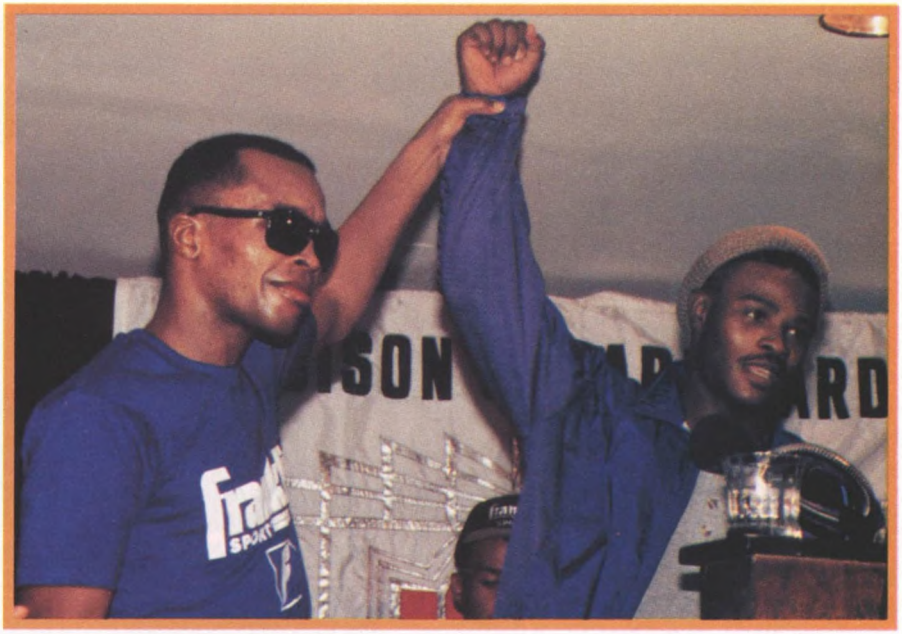
ANTAMWEIGHTS
. Raul Perez, Mexico
. Orlando Canizales, Laredo, TX
. Luisito Espinosa, Philippines
. Pepillo Valdez, Mexico
. Israel Contreras, Venezuela
. Javier Leon, Mexico
. Gerardo Martinez, San Jose, CA
. Greg Richardson, Youngstown, OH
. Billy Hardy, England
. Chang Kyun Oh, South Korea

UNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
. Khaosai Galaxy, Thailand
. Sung Kil Moon, South Korea
. Nana Konadu, Ghana
. Robert Quiroga, San Antonio, TX
. Kid Akeem, Las Vegas, NV
. Jose Ruiz, Puerto Rico
. Johnny Tapia, Albuquerque, NM
. Thalernsak Sithbaobey, Thailand
. David Griman, Venezuela
. Rey Paciones, Philippines

LYWEIGHTS
. Sot Chitalada, Thailand
. Dave McAuley, Ireland
. Leopard Tamakuma, Japan
. Jung-Koo Chang, South Korea
. Yul Woo Lee, South Korea
. Jesus Rojas, Venezuela
. Richard Clarke, Jamaica
. Rodolfo Blanco, Colombia
. Yun Un Chin, South Korea
. Jonathan Penalosa, Philippines

because he wanted to prolong a seniors junket and prove that the stars of the '70s were still boxing's marquee champions. To the mainstream, Norris was a nobody.

"I kept fighting because I was a risk-taker," he said from behind dark glasses

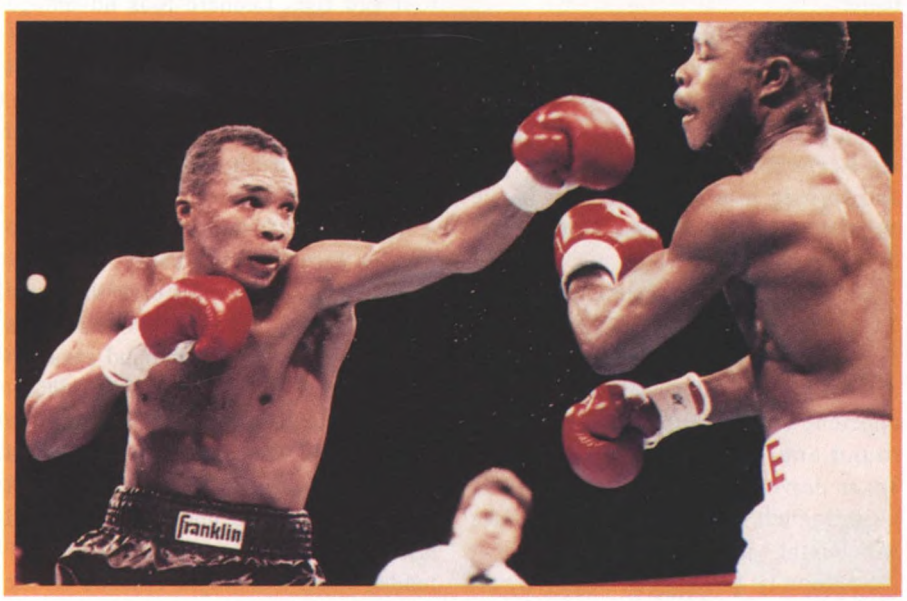


Hiding a badly swollen left eye after the Norris bout, Leonard said he kept fighting because he was a risk-taker. "I had to find out for myself. It had to take something like this to make me move on."

before leaving the Garden. "I had to find out for myself. It had to take something like this to make me move on."

Come to think of it, if Leonard hadn't expected such a beating, maybe he really *had* been reading the papers. Immediately after he selected the 23-year-old WBC super welterweight king as his foe, most experts forecast Leonard's doom, citing the edge he was giving away in age and speed. But as the fight night drew near, most writers had changed their minds and were picking him to win by knockout. Leonard looked so good in training that it appeared the only danger he faced in New York would come during his early-morning jogs in Central Park, or perhaps when he arrived at a Times Square area gym and had to maneuver his way through the crush of derelicts trying to squeegee the windshield of his limousine.

In his final workout open to the press, he concluded two spirited rounds of sparring with middleweight Derwin Richards with a picturesque hook that left Richards on his back. Leonard was then forced to end his session on the



Sugar Ray couldn't put a combination together if someone handed him an instruction manual. The ring veteran was reduced to pawing at the quicker Norris with a soft jab.

Norris initiated the action in the round, catching Leonard with a uppercut (left), followed by rights to the body. In the second, Texan drove Leonard to the can (below) with a sizzling left.

speedbag prematurely when another left hook tore the bag from its mooring and sent it flying toward a crowd of photographers. The consummate showman had saved his best workout for the perfect moment. It was to be the last display of timing he would exhibit.

Against Norris, he couldn't have put a combination together if you handed him an instruction manual. The champion repeatedly got his punches off first, leaving an uncharacteristically tentative Leonard to paw with a soft jab and flinch even when Norris merely faked a counter.

"I knew when I got in the ring," Leonard would say, "that it just wasn't there."

All thought that Norris might be intimidated by the idea of facing his idol quickly dissolved when he entered the ring and stepped right in front of a pacing Leonard, cutting the challenger off and forcing him to take a step in the opposite direction. It was a portent of the footwork to come.

Eschewing the movement some predicted would be the focal point of his strategy, Norris initiated the action, catching Leonard with a jolting left uppercut and two rights to the body in round one. Then in the second, the Texan drove Leonard to the canvas with a sizzling left hook and brazenly hit him with a right when he was down.

Somebody looked intimidated, all right, and it wasn't Terry Norris.

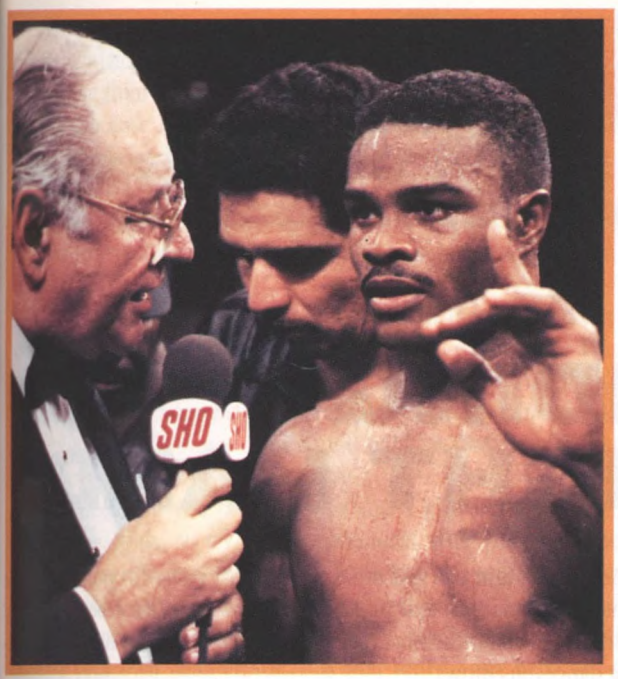
Norris, 27-3 (14), controlled the third, but curiously elected to dance in rounds four and five. Leonard took advantage of the opportunity, scoring with a series of rights. But he was unable to offset Norris' renewed aggression in the sixth, and in the seventh, Leonard experienced what was probably the worst round of his career.

With blood dripping from a split lip and his face swelling badly, Leonard, 36-2-1 (25), swallowed a crisp hook and a head-snapping right. Then, in a sequence reminiscent of round seven in New Orleans 10 years earlier, Leonard, like Roberto Duran, walked straight into a jab that watered his eyes, and peered through the mist to see his opponent smiling at him. Seconds later, Leonard attempted to fire a right, but Norris' landed first, and Sugar crashed to the floor for the second time.

"I kept telling him, 'C'mon, Ray,'" Norris would later say. "He could keep up. It turned out to be easier than thought it would be."

Unlike Duran, who said "No mas" round after he was embarrassed Leonard would fight on bravely. An article that had appeared in *The Nation* two days before the bout hinted that Leonard was hoping to lose at this stage of his career, so that he'd have an excuse for leaving the game. Nonsense. He'd fight on when nothing was left but his spirit, willing himself to stand through 12 rounds, determined to hear his career's final numbers coming from a ring announcer reading the scorecards not a referee tolling a 10-count.

And when it was over, Leonard didn't whine like Hagler, offer hollow threats like Duran, or turn into a bitter buffoon like Holmes. He instead patted Norris on the rump, raised the victor's hand in



After beating on his idol for 12 rounds, Norris (pictured with Dr. Ferdie Pacheco after the fight) said, "I kept telling him, 'C'mon, Ray.' He couldn't keep up. It turned out to be easier than I thought it would be."

center of the ring, and then lectured reporters, "Don't put it in your stories that my skills have eroded. This man should be commended."

That he should, but when the emotion and good will of the moment were stripped away, the exposed reality was that Leonard lost because he fought on too long, not because Terry Norris is some new Sugar Ray whose talent could be held in check no longer. Leonard told us not to feel sorry for him, and we won't. We'll feel sorry for ourselves because we'll be the ones who won't get to see him fight again.

"Finally," said Leonard, "I'll feel comfortable doing something else."

That something else, according to Trainer, could be representing pro athletes. Leonard, who is more in the mood right now to wear out the links than wear the cuff links, says a more immediate course of action will be a long-overdue shaping up of his golf game. He'll see his share of birdies there, too, but now they won't be flying around his head when he's dazed.

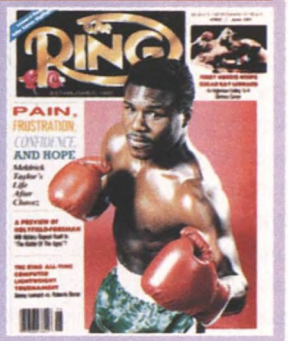
No matter what he decides, the fighting is over. He's said so before, but his previous five retirement announcements were never made through swollen lips that distorted his words, or from behind dark glasses, or at press conferences he couldn't walk out of without some assistance.

Leonard may have been the last to find out, but now he has found out that while some old men can make a career last forever, and others can recapture that magic a second, third, or fourth time around, he happened to choose one occupation where it just doesn't work that way.

And if he ever wants to be reminded of that fact, the 7-Up Kid need only turn on the TV.

Ray Charles Leonard doesn't have the hottest soda commercial on the airwaves these days. Ray Charles does. ■

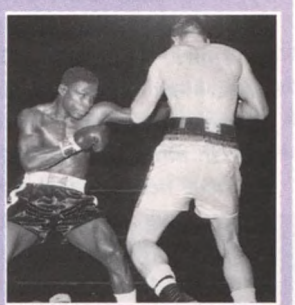
THE RING, June 1991

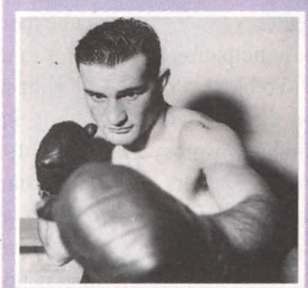


The Cover: Meldrick Taylor was still hurting over a year after his stunning knockout loss to Julio Cesar Chavez. Taylor just handed Aaron Davis his first pro defeat in claiming the WBA welterweight title, yet the Philadelphian was still plagued by his only setback and vowed that he would beat Chavez in a rematch.

Battle Of The Ages: THE RING took a sneak peak at the upcoming heavyweight showdown between undisputed champion Evander Holyfield and George Foreman, the lovable 42-year-old pitchman who was attempting to become the oldest heavyweight champ in history.

Could Hearns Handle Tiger?: Dick Tiger's power overwhelmed fighters like Gene Fullmer (pictured). Boxing experts Mel Greb, Joey Giardello, and Mickey Duff all concluded that Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns would not have been able to withstand Tiger's power in a mythical fight between the two.





Remembering Freddie Steele: Former middleweight champion Fred Apostoli once called Freddie Steele "the toughest fighter I ever met." THE RING recalled the 11-year career of the middleweight titlist from Tacoma, Washington, whose popularity in that area surpassed another Tacomian, Bing Crosby.

Fighter Of The Month: Terry Norris earned the honors for his dominating performance against Sugar Ray Leonard. The WBC super welterweight titlist had been overly cautious in early bouts, then came out with kamikaze zeal in his title-winning fight against John Mugabi. Norris used the right mix against Leonard, outjabbing the ring legend and pressing him when given the chance.

THE A, B, C & DEAS OF BOXING

DEFENDING THE RIGHT HAND

By Tommy Deas

You've watched the world's best fighters and read about them in this magazine, and now you want to give boxing a try, or at least learn a little more about the mechanics of the sport. Welcome to THE RING'S bi-monthly instructional feature on boxing's basics. Bear in mind, the techniques described here are just one of many approaches to the Sweet Science. The most important thing is to find a good coach and follow his instructions. All instructions on these pages are geared for an orthodox, or right-handed, stance. If you are left-handed, merely turn everything around.

For most orthodox boxers, the straight right or right cross is the most powerful punch, the that can cause the most damage and the one that most fighters consider their best knock weapon. Defending against the right hand, therefore, is an essential skill that must be dev oped to avoid your opponent's most dangerous blows.

As a simple matter of physics, your best advantage in trying to avoid right hands is the combi tion of time and distance. Because your opponent's right hand is farther away from you (assum he is not a southpaw), it must travel a greater distance to reach you. This gives you more time react, and makes the punch more difficult to land effectively.

Even a matter of a fraction of a second can make the difference between making the punch m you entirely or turning a haymaker into a glancing blow. This means it is of utmost importance t you always keep your eyes focused sharply on your foe so you see the punch coming and give yo self the maximum possible time to react.

The first rule of good defense is to always keep your hands up and your chin down. Even if y don't see it coming, the best aimed of punches can often be thwarted by a high guard. You w quickly find that it's much better to take a shot to the gloves than it is to take one on the chin.

Blocking the punch is probably the easiest defensive move to master against the right hand requires less practice and experience than slipping a right, because it takes time to develop the pr er anticipation and reflexes to make sure you get out of the way before the punch lands.

To block a right hand, start with your basic stance. Your left hand should stay about eyebrow h on the left side and slightly in front of your head. You should be leading with your left shoul angled toward your opponent, and your chin should be tucked in behind the shoulder. Squaring your shoulders, with both your left and right shoulders even with your ears, is a mistake that w make you most vulnerable to your opponent's right hand. A square stance will make you an easy t get, and no amount of defensive skill will make up for this basic mistake.

When you see the right hand coming, you should already be in good position to block the punch your stance is correct. As the punch approaches, simply keep your left glove in place and turn back of your hand toward the oncoming blow. Angle your hand slightly inward, toward your no so that your left thumb moves out about an inch farther away from your face.

This should help deflect the punch so your opponent's right bounces away from your face and ochets out of harm's way. You want to rock to the right slightly with the impact of the punch, wh is commonly called rolling with the punch. This lessens the power of the punch, because the target moving away from the blow when it lands.

Unless you are exceptionally strong, you'll probably find that it's better to draw your glove ba to make contact with your own face just as the punch connects. Otherwise, the impact of the inco ing right hand will probably knock your own glove back into your face. Not only is that an unple ant feeling, it can obscure your vision long enough to give your opponent an advantage in lining his next punch.

Another variation on blocking the right hand involves lifting your glove up even higher as t punch arrives, so that the inside of your left wrist covers your left ear. This effectively covers y chin, your temple, and the point above the ear, all crucial pressure points you want to protect.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON K. PIERCE

execute this block properly, roll your left shoulder forward as the punch approaches while moving the left glove in place. This is a solid move from a defensive perspective, but it will handicap your offense, because it takes your left hand out of play and keeps it completely occupied, eliminating your ability to counter with a jab or a left hook.

Slipping the right hand is more difficult to master, but probably more effective overall because it puts you in better position to throw counters.

Learning this technique will require a lot of practice, and even a minor miscalculation can prove to be a painful experience. To slip an inbound right hand, you must judge the speed and angle of the punch and move your head accordingly. Basically, the idea is to move your head downward and to the right, so that the punch sails harmlessly over your left shoulder.

Remember that you are trying to slip a glove that is only six inches or so wide, so try to be economical with your movement. You don't have to move your head three feet to avoid a right hand. You just have to move it enough so that it misses the target. The closer a missed right comes to hitting you, the better your position to land your own counterpunch. If you move your head too far, even in making the punch miss, you will throw yourself off-balance and make yourself vulnerable to another shot, especially if your foe decides to follow his right with a left hook.

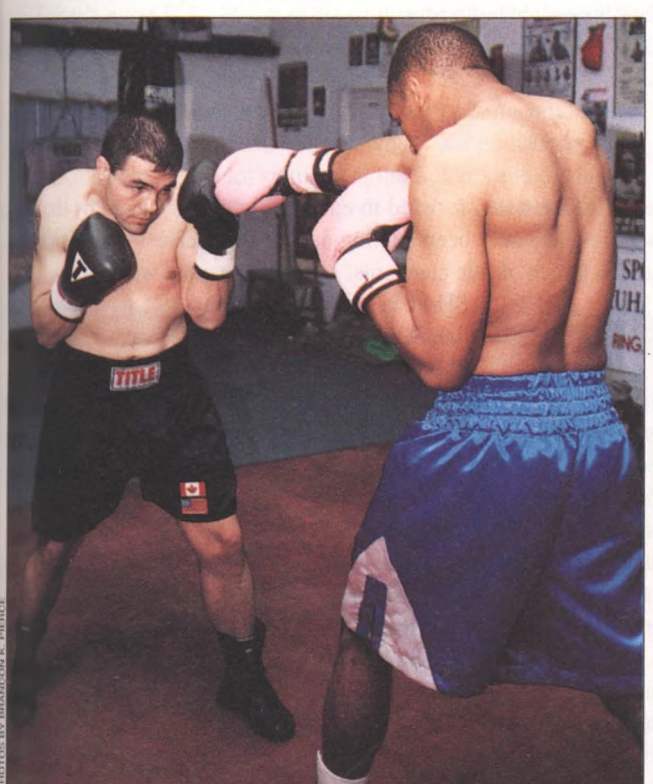
Footwork is always an important defensive tool against any attack, and the right ring movement can help you avoid getting hit with too many rights. The more you move to your right, the more difficult you will be to hit with right hands. This takes you away and out of range of your opponent's right, and he will find it more difficult to line up a clean shot if he has to extend himself too far or throw all the way across his body to reach you. The more your foe relies on his right, or the more powerful it is, the more you need to move away from it to lessen its effect.

The biggest mistake you can make in trying to defend against a right hand is to pull back away from it. Unless you have truly superior reflexes, and even if you do, this technique will almost certainly lead to disaster sooner or later. In pulling your head backward, you are actually moving into the zone where the punch is most powerful. A properly thrown right hand is most powerful at full extension, so pulling away from it puts you in a very dangerous position. Also, your chin is almost certain to lift up as your head goes back, so you are giving your opponent a very inviting target when you do this.

To practice blocking or slipping right hands, it's best to pair off with a gym mate for shadowboxing. Get him to throw his right from too far away to actually land, but go through the motions of slipping or blocking. Start out in slow motion, and gradually increase the pace as you get better at it. Later on, put on a headgear and sparring gloves and ask someone to throw soft, slow right hands in your direction and practice your defensive moves. When you've done this enough, you can take what you've learned into the ring to further hone these skills in sparring, where you'll pay a greater price for your mistakes.

Experience is always a good teacher. You will surely get hit with some right hands along the way as you learn, and the unpleasant results will give you more incentive to master these techniques. ■

Tommy Deas is a sportswriter for the Tuscaloosa (Alabama) News and a trainer of professional and amateur boxers.



PHOTOS BY BRANDON K. PRICE

Super middleweight Dennis Lawson demonstrates how to block the right hand (thrown by cruiserweight Marcus McGee) with the left glove. Notice that Lawson's chin is tucked and his glove is protecting the entire left side of his head, from the temple to the bottom of the jaw.

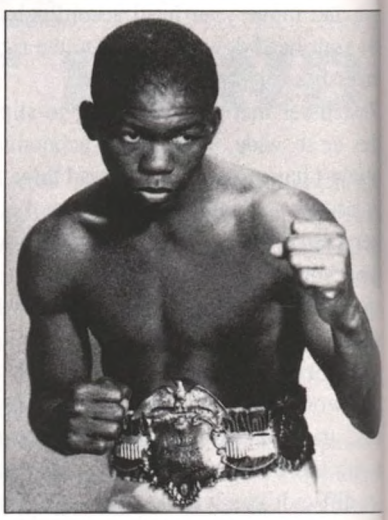
Learning to avoid the right hand by stepping inside of it is a more difficult technique to master, but when properly executed, it puts you in a much better position to score with a counter.

COME OUT WRITING

PLAUDITS FOR THE NEW POLICY

The response from readers and industry insiders to THE RING'S new championship policy, which was announced in the April 2002 issue, has been so overwhelming and so positive, we have allotted this issue's entire "Come Out Writing" section to the topic.

Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Or e-mail letters to comeoutwriting@yahoo.com. E-mailed letters will include the writer's e-mail address unless a city and state of origin is provided.



Ike Williams, lightweight champion, 1945-'5

THE RING now recognizes one champion in each division. Other guys who hold belts can be ranked, but there will be only one champion per division according to RING magazine. And I'm accepting that as the legitimate source of boxing information in terms of who is the champion. I might not agree with their selection sometimes, but I will respect it as legitimate. I'm pumping up THE RING as the real champ, and I think people will catch on to it.

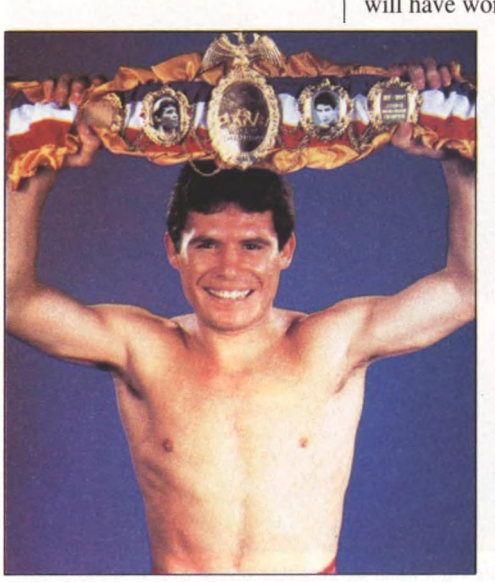
MAX KELLERMAN
ESPN2's *Friday Night Fights*

Good for you regarding THE RING's new championship policy. I started reading THE RING in 1943 before this silly alphabet soup stuff started. Your move rational, correct, and long needed.

S. WOODY WILLI
Camas, W

I was pleasantly surprised to see THE RING step forward to end the big circus caused by the sel proclaimed "boxing organizations" who have only been looking out for themselves. Once again, w will have world champions instead of a bunch of title claimants. Keep up the good work.

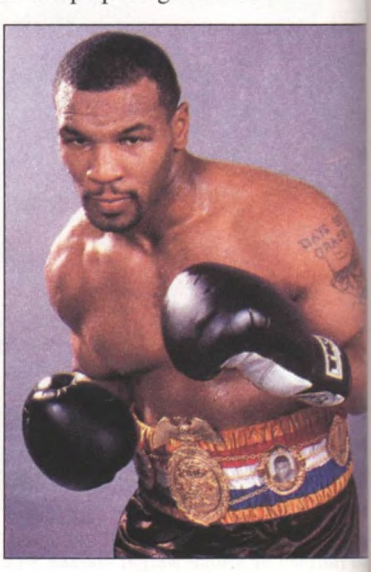
ARNOLD SHAUL
Kodiak, AK



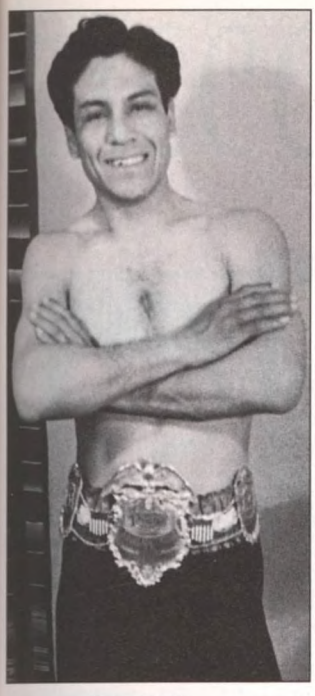
Julio Cesar Chavez, junior welterweight champion, 1989-'96

I know I'm not alone in saying that I applaud this classy move by THE RING for doing their part to rid the boxing world of evil and for smoking the alphabet groups out of their holes. You should call this mission "Operation Enduring Champions," or something catchy like that. I don't mean to be disrespectful in my analogy or undermine the seriousness of the real war, but I love this sport and I commend THE RING for making a giant step in the right direction.

All we have to do is ignore these alphabet titles and they lose their value. I will never again go to the "Alphabet Ratings" to see where a fighter is ranked. In fact, I consider THE RING generous for continuing to print that microscop-



Mike Tyson, heavyweight champion, 1986-'90



Manuel Ortiz, bantamweight champion, 1942-'50

ic list of infinite names. You'd need a magnifying glass to figure it out anyway.

THE RING's new system should be universally recognized as the official ratings. Not only does it simplify the rankings and give credit to those that have earned it, but THE RING champions are not chosen subjectively. They deserve to be the only world champions at this point in time. I don't mind seeing 13 vacant spots atop the various divisions. I'd rather have a real champion to root for or against, as opposed to some guy with some belt. All praise to THE RING, The Bible of Boxing.

BRIAN WAGNER
Green Brook, NJ

Good editorial stance and great idea re. THE RING ratings. Fleischer would be proud not only of your bow, but of the concept.

W.C. HEINZ
Dorset, VT

[Editor's note: W.C. Heinz is the author of **The Professional,** *widely considered the best boxing novel of all-time.]*

Congratulations and thank you for recognizing one world champion in each division. Now if you would just go back to eight divisions, life would be a lot simpler for the fighters and the fans.

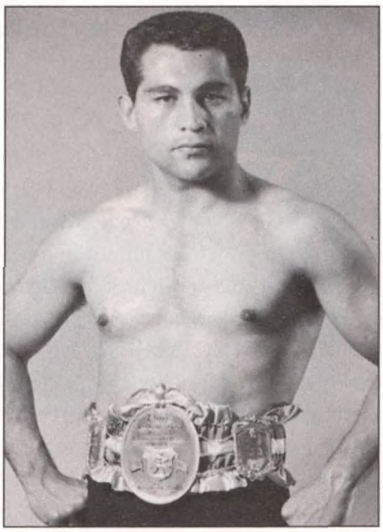
NORM KONE
Davenport, IA

What a great idea, your new championship policy. Don't ever change it. Growing up in the 1950s and being a boxing fan since "The Rock" was king, I know this is the way championships should be determined.

HARV NAASZ
Winner, SD

The April 2002 edition of THE RING magazine has set new guidelines for their rankings and recognition of who the "true champions" are in the sport today. It's a noble endeavor that will help at least highlight those who have cleaned out a particular weight class. I'm all for it. It sets a guideline and establishes a lineage we can all follow from this point on.

STEVE KIM
MaxBoxing.com

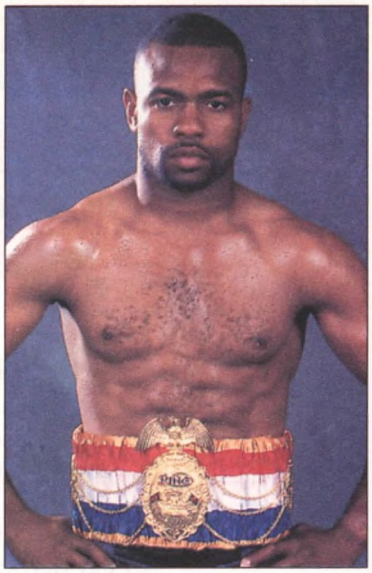


Willie Pastrano, light heavyweight champion, 1963-'65

Congratulations on once again giving THE RING's recognition to the various world champions. Even before the present alphabet soup listings, I and a good many others recognized THE RING's champions as being the true titleholders.

ROBERT J. COOK, Ph.D.
Macomb, IL

THE RING's new championship policy seems to be a very comprehensible, straightforward approach to decide who is the true champion in each weight division. It's about time.



Roy Jones, light heavyweight champion, 1996-present

I have a few questions: If the decision in a championship fight is not the one most people wanted or agree with, are you going to stand by the officials or cave to the voices out there who refused to see reality? Also, do you think that HBO, Showtime, ESPN2, Univision, and their commentators will recognize THE RING champions and rankings? Or is it just a RING thing?

STEPHANIE ALEGRIA
Reno, NV

[Editor's note: If there is a bad decision in a world title fight, THE RING will still recognize the official verdict, but we will also criticize the decision and the officials responsible, as well as lobby for a rematch.

We will have to wait and see how much support THE RING's new championship policy gets from the various networks that televise boxing, but we have already received a tremendous endorsement from ESPN2's Max Kellerman (see above).]

As a longtime ring and RING fan, let me say I think having THE RING rate the fighters and award the champ a belt is great.

DR. B.K. MARSHALL
bkmarsh1999@yahoo.com

Boxing fans will respect THE RING's championship recognition and top 10 ratings much more than those of the alphabet strippers.

TOMMY ALVIDREZ
Ft. Worth, TX

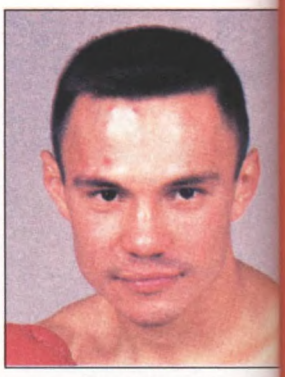
On behalf of the American Association for the Improvement of Boxing Inc., may I extend congratulations to THE RING in your endeavor to recognize only one bona fide champion of the world in each division and to present the champion with the one and only truly significant championship belt.

STEPHEN B. ACUNTO
Chairman, AAIB Inc.
Mount Vernon, NY ■

LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

560 POUNDS OF MAYHEM



Tszyu: In tough with Tackie

If you're a fan of the junior welterweights—and how could you not be, since it's probably boxing's deepest and most compelling division—circle the date May 18 on your calendar. Rival networks HBO and Showtime are both looking to present Fight of the Year candidates from the 140-pound class on that date, one involving the division's undisputed title, and the other involving the two most fan-friendly fighters in the game.

Showtime's fight is clearly the more meaningful one: world champion **Kostya Tszyu** vs. **Ben Tackie**. With wins over **Golden Johnson**, **Roberto Garcia**, **Fred Pendleton**, **Ray Oliveira**, and **Teddy Reid** in the past two years, Tackie has earned his shot, and *Showtime Championship Boxing* Executive Producer **Jay Larkin** considers the Ghanaian a very live underdog.

"Tackie has a pattern of giving away the early rounds, then coming on and knocking guys out," Larkin said. "But Tszyu is tough as aged wood. It's difficult to knock Kosty Tszyu out. It's a very intriguing fight."

Gatti: Can Micky ward him off?

The same can undoubtedly be said for the fight HBO was close to finalizing for th same date as we went to press: **Arturo Gatti** vs. **Micky Ward**. HBO Sports Vic President of Programming **Kery Davis** summed up what this dream fight is all about two sentences.

"Gatti is the most exciting fighter in the sport," said Davis. "Micky Ward is the sec ond most exciting."

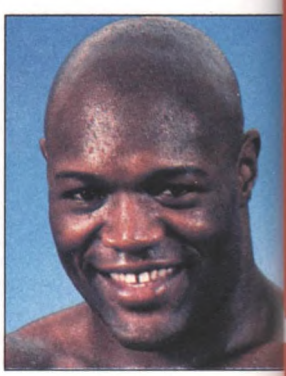
Gatti-Ward may produce a tad more bang for the buck than Tszyu-Tackie, but a Davis noted, "It's not necessarily a fight that's meant to lead somewhere." Gatti-War is a magnificent matchup, but its result probably will not profoundly affect the future o the division. Tszyu-Tackie, obviously, does. If Tszyu wins, Larkin would like to see rematch with **Zab Judah** later in the year, and also mentioned **Ricky Hatton**, **Sharmba Mitchell**, **DeMarcus Corley**, an **Randall Bailey** as potential future title challengers. Any way you look at it, starting with Tackie, it's a double-tough men for Tszyu, and Larkin doesn't expect a long reign for the Russian—but not for the reason you'd think.

"It's not that I see Tszyu getting bumped off," Larkin insisted. "It's that I see him retiring in the next year or two. That just a hunch, not based on anything Kostya told me. But Tszyu is reaching the zenith of his career now, and I see him goin out on top in the near future."

No sense worrying about that yet, though. There's a lot of excitement to come at junior welter first, and it doesn't ge much better than what May 18 has in store for us.

LISTEN UP

HBO and Showtime will also butt heads on April 27, with heavyweight headliners. While once-beaten **Clifford "The Black Rhino" Etienne** returns to Showtime against **Terrance Lewis**, top-10 contender **Jameel McCline** tops a *Boxing After Dark* card, possibly against **Shannon Briggs** ... IBF cruiserweight king **Vassiliy Jirov** is expected to defend in June against former WBA counterpart **Fabrice Tiozzo**, who despite his horrid loss to **Virgil Hill** in December '00, is probably the best challenger of Jirov's reign. After that, there's rumor of a possible Jirov-**Roy Jones** bout at a catchweight of 185 pounds. Don't bet on it happening, though. A powerful, naturally larger bodybanger like Jirov seems just dangerous enough for Jones to find an excuse not to fight him ... **Acelino Freitas** will make his first defense of the WBA 130-pound title on Showtime on June 1 against undefeated **Daniel Attah**, a little-known '96 Olympian from Nigeria. Said Showtime's Larkin, "I'm not sure where we go with Freitas after that. He may have to move up to 135 to find a marquee opponent." ■



Etienne: Getting a second chanc from Showtime

Exceed Expectations

TITLE™ Platinum

1-800-999-1213

Call 1-800-999-1213 for a free catalog
or visit our website at www.titleboxing.com

www.everlast.com

BOXING EQUIPMENT
EVERLAST
EST. 1910
BRONX, NEW YORK